

## Access to CTE Programs

Good morning. My name is John Tague. I am the superintendent at Franklin West Supervisory Union serving the students of Fairfax, Fletcher, and Georgia. I am in my 29th year in this district. Although this is my first year as superintendent, I served as HS Principal for 6 years and taught HS math for 22 years prior. In high school, I attended what is now the Green Mountain Technology and Career Center in Hyde Park for drafting. I support technical education.

When I saw that part of the intent of this bill was to improve access to technical education for all students, I felt the need to represent the interests of one of our schools, BFA Fairfax. Our school is located in Franklin County. Our students receive their technical education through the Center for Technology-Essex and Burlington Tech Center. They receive quality education and opportunities at both locations. Our students are able to enroll at Northwest Technical Center in St Albans if there is a program at Northwest that is not offered at either of our partner tech centers. Last spring, I was able to work with Bob Travers, Jason Gingold, and Leeann Wright to provide opportunities for several students who were not accepted into CTE or BTC to attend programs at Northwest. At the time, all of the tech directors wondered why we didn't do this every year.

I would like to offer the possibility for all of our students to have choice at any of the three tech centers in our region. I believe this will expand opportunities for our students. I am not looking to pull students away from CTE or BTC-I merely want to offer our students the option to choose a program that is best for them. I believe that the distance and time commitment of attending CTE or BTC for our students may be a deterrent to participation for some. Offering our students the opportunity to select a half day program at NWTC that is 15 minutes from their home school may help improve student participation. CTE is a full day program. BTC is a half day program and about a 45 minute commute. These factors impact our students' connection to our school and ability to take courses. I want to emphasize that I support both BTC and CTE. I participate in the RAB and have been a part of the redesign process for BTC. Our students thrive at both centers. The Fairfax community would not support a reassignment of tech centers zones that eliminated our students opportunities to attend either BTC or CTE. My goal is to provide an additional option for students.

This situation may be unique to my district, but there may be other students in other schools where choice in tech centers might be beneficial and increase access. High school students can participate in school choice for their high school through the Winooski Valley Consortium. My question is why would we not extend that concept for tech centers?

Thank you.