

1 S.304

2 Introduced by Committee on Education

3 Date: January 30, 2024

4 Subject: Education; career and technical education; workforce development

5 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to make changes  
6 to Vermont's career and technical education (CTE) system, including:

7 (1) basing the tuition charged to a school district on the district's prior  
8 year full-time equivalent student enrollment in a CTE center;

9 (2) requiring school districts to provide students in grades six through  
10 eight with career enrichment and exposure, including at least one annual visit  
11 to the school district's regional career and technical education center;

12 (3) requiring school districts to provide students enrolled in grades nine  
13 and 10 a genuine opportunity to participate fully in pre-tech and exploratory  
14 career and technical courses;

15 (4) requiring the Agency of Education to create and supervisory unions  
16 to adopt a model comprehensive career development policy;

17 (5) changing oversight of CTE from the State Board of Education to the  
18 Secretary of Education;

19 (6) requiring the Vermont State Colleges Corporation to maintain  
20 program and course articulation agreements with all secondary CTE centers in  
21 certain programs;





1 ~~(4) Provide students in grades six through eight with career enrichment~~  
2 ~~and exposure, including at least one annual visit to the school district's~~  
3 ~~regional career and technical education center.~~

4 (5) Provide students enrolled in grades nine and 10 a genuine  
5 opportunity to participate fully in pre-tech and exploratory career and technical  
6 courses.

7 \* \* \*

8 Sec. 4. 16 V.S.A. § 1547 is added to read:

9 § 1547. COMPREHENSIVE CAREER DEVELOPMENT POLICY

10 (a) The Secretary of Education, in consultation with the Commissioner of  
11 Labor, shall develop a model Comprehensive Career Development Policy and  
12 implementation plan for all secondary students. The Secretary shall review the  
13 model policy not less than every five years and make a determination as to  
14 whether the policy needs updating. The model policy shall address the  
15 following:

16 (1) the role of CTE centers in providing career-focused education;

17 (2) how each supervisory union's career education and counseling  
18 policy practices align with the CTE programs of study;

19 (3) how supervisory unions will work with CTE centers and other  
20 supervisory unions in the CTE region to develop common and joint courses  
21 and approaches to career development, career exploration, and CTE exposure,

1 ~~(4) a plan for meeting the pre-tech and exploratory CTE requirements~~  
2 ~~under subdivision 1541a(a)(5) of this title; and~~

3 ~~(5) a plan for meeting the career enrichment and exposure requirements~~  
4 ~~under subdivision 1541a(a)(4) of this title.~~

5 ~~(b) Each supervisory union board shall develop, adopt, and ensure~~  
6 ~~implementation of a policy and plan for comprehensive career development~~  
7 ~~that is consistent with and at least as comprehensive as the model policy~~  
8 ~~developed by the Secretary. Any supervisory union board that fails to adopt~~  
9 ~~such a policy or procedures shall be presumed to have adopted the most~~  
10 ~~current model policy and procedures published by the Secretary.~~

11 Sec. 5. DEVELOPMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE CAREER

12 DEVELOPMENT POLICY; REPORT

13 ~~(a) On or before August 1, 2024, the Secretary of Education shall develop~~  
14 ~~and issue the model Comprehensive Career Development Policy required~~  
15 ~~under 16 V.S.A. § 1547.~~

16 ~~(b) On or before September 15, 2024, each supervisory union shall~~  
17 ~~develop, adopt, and ensure implementation of a policy and plan for~~  
18 ~~comprehensive career development that is consistent with and at least as~~  
19 ~~comprehensive as the model policy developed by the Secretary, as required~~  
20 ~~under 16 V.S.A. § 1547.~~

~~\*\*\* Construction Aid \*\*\*~~

~~Sec. 6. CONSTRUCTION AID; CAREER AND TECHNICAL  
EDUCATION~~

~~It is the intent of the General Assembly to ensure that career and technical  
education centers and their associated facilities are appropriately and equitably  
included in future updates to the State's construction aid program under  
16 V.S.A. chapter 123.~~

~~\*\*\* CTE Oversight \*\*\*~~

~~Sec. 7. 16 V.S.A. chapter 37, subchapter 2 is amended to read:~~

~~Subchapter 2. State Board of Education Oversight of Career and Technical  
Education~~

~~\*\*\*~~

~~§ 1531. RESPONSIBILITY OF STATE BOARD SECRETARY~~

~~(a) The State Board Secretary has overall responsibility for the  
effectiveness of career technical education. This requires the Board Secretary  
to collect suitable information and to take appropriate steps within its the  
Secretary's legal, financial, and personnel resources to ensure that:~~

~~\*\*\*~~

~~(b) In order to provide regional career technical education services  
efficiently, the State Board Secretary shall designate a service region for each  
career technical center. However, the Board Secretary may designate a service~~

1 ~~region for two or more comprehensive high schools if that region is not served~~  
2 by a career technical center.

3 (c) For a school district that is geographically isolated from a Vermont  
4 career technical center, the ~~State Board~~ Secretary may approve a career  
5 technical center in another state as the career technical center that district  
6 students may attend. In this case, the school district shall receive  
7 transportation assistance pursuant to section 1563 of this title and tuition  
8 assistance pursuant to subsection 1561(c) of this title. Any student who is a  
9 resident in the Windham Southwest Supervisory Union and who is enrolled at  
10 public expense in the Charles H. McCann Technical School or the Franklin  
11 County Technical School shall be considered to be attending an approved  
12 career technical center in another state pursuant to this subsection, and, if the  
13 student is from a school district eligible for a merger support grant pursuant to  
14 section 4015 of this title or a small school weight pursuant to section 4010 of  
15 this title, the student's full-time equivalency shall be computed according to  
16 time attending the school.

17 § 1532. MINIMUM STANDARDS; MEASUREMENT OF STANDARDS

18 (a) The ~~State Board~~ Agency of Education shall adopt by rule:

19 (1) Minimum standards for the operation and performance of career  
20 technical centers that include the education quality standards adopted by the  
21 ~~State Board under subdivision 164(9) and section 165 of this title.~~

1 ~~(2) Standards for student performance based on the standards adopted~~  
2 by the State Board under subdivision 164(9) of this title and standards for  
3 industry recognized credentials.

4 \* \* \*

5 (b) The following shall be adopted by procedure or rule:

6 (1) ~~competencies~~ proficiencies that graduates of each kind of career  
7 technical program should be able to demonstrate, including career technical  
8 competencies necessary for the student's intended employment;

9 (2) minimum admissions ~~competencies~~ proficiencies for entrance into  
10 each career technical course of study;

11 \* \* \*

12 § 1533. CAREER TECHNICAL CENTER EVALUATION

13 (a) At least once in each period of five years ~~and in coordination with the~~  
14 ~~Vermont Advisory Council on Career Technical Education,~~ the Secretary shall  
15 evaluate the effectiveness of each career technical center in the State. The  
16 ~~State Board~~ Secretary by rule shall prescribe the method for conducting these  
17 evaluations.

18 (b) Evaluations of career technical centers shall consider at least the  
19 following areas:

20 (1) compliance with this chapter and the rules of the ~~State Board~~  
21 Secretary,



1 ~~(2) the condition and suitability of the facility and its equipment;~~

2 (3) the quality of the course of study, including faculty development  
3 policies and instruction;

4 (4) the overall success of the center at combining academic education,  
5 skill training, and employability trait development into its program;

6 (5) the overall success of the center in providing regionwide services  
7 and a flexible response to student needs, integrating its courses of study into a  
8 coherent program, and coordinating its program with postsecondary career  
9 technical education services;

10 (6) the satisfaction of the center's customer groups, including graduates,  
11 sending schools, and local industry;

12 (7) the adequacy and effectiveness of the center in meeting the  
13 educational and employment needs of all its eligible students, including its  
14 success in taking steps to encourage each student to consider enrolling in  
15 courses not traditional for that student's gender; and

16 (8) alignment of the program, and other center operations, to Agency of  
17 Education, District Quality Standards (CVR 23-020).

18 (c) [Repealed.]

19 § 1534. COURSE OF STUDY EVALUATION

20 (a) At least once in each period of five years, ~~and in coordination with the~~  
21 ~~Vermont Advisory Council on Career Technical Education, the Secretary shall~~

1 ~~evaluate the effectiveness of each course of study offered by any career~~  
2 technical center in the State. The ~~State Board~~ Secretary by rule shall prescribe  
3 the method for conducting these evaluations.

4 \* \* \*

5 Sec. 8. TRANSFER OF RULEMAKING AUTHORITY; TRANSFER OF  
6 RULES

7 (a) The statutory authority to adopt rules by the State Board of Education  
8 pertaining to the oversight of career and technical education adopted under  
9 16 V.S.A. chapter 37 and 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 is transferred from the State  
10 Board of Education to the Agency of Education.

11 (b) All rules pertaining to career and technical education adopted by the  
12 State Board of Education under 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 prior to July 1, 2024 shall  
13 be deemed the rules of the Agency of Education and remain in effect until  
14 amended or repealed by the Agency of Education pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter  
15 25.

16 (c) The Agency of Education shall provide notice of the transfer to the  
17 Secretary of State and the Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules in  
18 accordance with 3 V.S.A. § 848(d)(2).

~~\*\*\* Postsecondary Program Articulation Agreements \*\*\*~~

Sec. 9. 16 V.S.A. § 1594 is added to read:

§ 1594. POSTSECONDARY PROGRAM ALIGNMENT

(a) In order to promote a seamless pathway from CTE to postsecondary opportunities, the Vermont State Colleges Corporation shall maintain program and course articulation agreements with all secondary CTE centers in the following programs:

- (1) manufacturing;
- (2) engineering;
- (3) health sciences; and
- (4) education.

(b) As used in this section, “articulation agreements” means an officially approved agreement between a secondary CTE center and the Vermont State Colleges Corporation that allows secondary CTE students to earn college credit for the work they complete at a secondary CTE center.

~~\*\*\* Effective Date \*\*\*~~

Sec. 10. EFFECTIVE DATE

~~This act shall take effect on July 1, 2024.~~

*\*\*\* CTE Opportunities for Grades Six through 10 \*\*\**

*Sec. 1. 16 V.S.A. § 1541a is amended to read:*

*§ 1541a. RESPONSIBILITY OF LOCAL BOARDS IN SENDING DISTRICTS*

*(a) A school board of a sending district that offers public education in grade 11 or 12 shall:*

*(1) Provide students enrolled in grades 11 and 12 with a genuine opportunity to participate fully and to benefit from career technical education.*

*\* \* \**

*(4) Provide students in grades six through eight with career enrichment and exposure. Such exposure shall include visits to or equivalent virtual experiences with the school district's regional career and technical education center at least once between the grades of six and eight.*

*(5) Provide students enrolled in grades nine and 10 a genuine opportunity to participate fully in pre-tech and exploratory career and technical courses.*

*\* \* \**

*Sec. 2. 16 V.S.A. § 1547 is added to read:*

*§ 1547. COMPREHENSIVE CAREER DEVELOPMENT POLICY*

*(a) The Secretary of Education, in consultation with the Commissioner of Labor, shall develop a model Comprehensive Career Development Policy for all secondary students. The Secretary shall review the model policy not less than every five years and make a determination as to whether the policy needs updating. The model policy shall ensure each student has the opportunity for robust discussion and planning regarding the student's career awareness, exploration, and future goals, consistent with the student's personalized learning plan. The policy shall require each school district to partner with its regional CTE center to develop and ensure the provision of career planning. The policy shall encourage districts to work regionally together in alignment on this policy implementation to preserve CTE capacity.*

*(b) Each school district board shall develop, adopt, and ensure implementation of a policy and plan for comprehensive career development that is consistent with and at least as comprehensive as the model policy developed by the Secretary. Any school district board that fails to adopt such a policy or procedures shall be presumed to have adopted the most current model policy and procedures published by the Secretary.*

*Sec. 3. DEVELOPMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE CAREER  
DEVELOPMENT POLICY; REPORT*

*(a) On or before December 1, 2024, the Secretary of Education shall develop and issue the model Comprehensive Career Development Policy required under 16 V.S.A. § 1547.*

(b) On or before June 30, 2025, each school district board shall develop, adopt, and ensure implementation of a policy and plan for comprehensive career development that is consistent with and at least as comprehensive as the model policy developed by the Secretary as required under 16 V.S.A. § 1547.

\* \* \* Construction Aid \* \* \*

**Sec. 4. CONSTRUCTION AID; CAREER AND TECHNICAL  
EDUCATION**

It is the intent of the General Assembly to ensure that career and technical education centers and their associated facilities are appropriately and equitably included in future updates to the State's construction aid program under 16 V.S.A. chapter 123.

\* \* \* CTE Oversight \* \* \*

**Sec. 5. 16 V.S.A. chapter 37, subchapter 2 is amended to read:**

Subchapter 2. State Board of Education Oversight of Career and Technical  
Education

**§ 1531. RESPONSIBILITY OF STATE BOARD SECRETARY**

(a) The State Board Secretary has overall responsibility for the effectiveness of career technical education. This requires the Board Secretary to collect suitable information and to take appropriate steps within its the Secretary's legal, financial, and personnel resources to ensure that:

\* \* \*

(b) In order to provide regional career technical education services efficiently, the State Board Secretary shall designate a service region for each career technical center. However, the Board Secretary may designate a service region for two or more comprehensive high schools if that region is not served by a career technical center.

(c) For a school district that is geographically isolated from a Vermont career technical center, the State Board Secretary may approve a career technical center in another state as the career technical center that district students may attend. In this case, the school district shall receive transportation assistance pursuant to section 1563 of this title and tuition assistance pursuant to subsection 1561(c) of this title. Any student who is a resident in the Windham Southwest Supervisory Union and who is enrolled at public expense in the Charles H. McCann Technical School or the Franklin County Technical School shall be considered to be attending an approved career technical center in another state pursuant to this subsection, and, if the student is from a school district eligible for a merger support grant pursuant to

*section 4015 of this title or a small school weight pursuant to section 4010 of this title, the student's full-time equivalency shall be computed according to time attending the school.*

*§ 1532. MINIMUM STANDARDS; MEASUREMENT OF STANDARDS*

*(a) The State Board Agency of Education shall adopt by rule:*

*(1) Minimum standards for the operation and performance of career technical centers that include the education quality standards adopted by the State Board under subdivision 164(9) and section 165 of this title.*

*(2) Standards for student performance based on the standards adopted by the State Board under subdivision 164(9) of this title and standards for industry recognized credentials.*

*\* \* \**

*(b) The following shall be adopted by procedure or rule:*

*(1) ~~competencies~~ proficiencies that graduates of each kind of career technical program should be able to demonstrate, including career technical competencies necessary for the student's intended employment;*

*(2) minimum admissions ~~competencies~~ proficiencies for entrance into each career technical course of study;*

*\* \* \**

*§ 1533. CAREER TECHNICAL CENTER EVALUATION*

*(a) At least once in each period of five years, ~~and in coordination with the Vermont Advisory Council on Career Technical Education~~, the Secretary shall evaluate the effectiveness of each career technical center in the State. The ~~State Board~~ Secretary by rule shall prescribe the method for conducting these evaluations.*

*(b) Evaluations of career technical centers shall consider at least the following areas:*

*(1) compliance with this chapter and the rules of the ~~State Board~~ Secretary;*

*(2) the condition and suitability of the facility and its equipment;*

*(3) the quality of the course of study, including faculty development policies and instruction;*

*(4) the overall success of the center at combining academic education, skill training, and employability trait development into its program;*

(5) *the overall success of the center in providing regionwide services and a flexible response to student needs, integrating its courses of study into a coherent program, and coordinating its program with postsecondary career technical education services;*

(6) *the satisfaction of the center's customer groups, including graduates, sending schools, and local industry;*

(7) *the adequacy and effectiveness of the center in meeting the educational and employment needs of all its eligible students, including its success in taking steps to encourage each student to consider enrolling in courses not traditional for that student's gender; and*

(8) alignment of the program, and other center operations, to Agency of Education, District Quality Standards (CVR 23-020), as applicable.

(c) *[Repealed.]*

#### § 1534. COURSE OF STUDY EVALUATION

*(a) At least once in each period of five years, ~~and in coordination with the Vermont Advisory Council on Career Technical Education,~~ the Secretary shall evaluate the effectiveness of each course of study offered by any career technical center in the State. ~~The State Board~~ Secretary by rule shall prescribe the method for conducting these evaluations.*

\* \* \*

#### Sec. 6. TRANSFER OF RULEMAKING AUTHORITY; TRANSFER OF RULES

(a) The statutory authority to adopt rules by the State Board of Education pertaining to the oversight of career and technical education adopted under 16 V.S.A. chapter 37 and 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 is transferred from the State Board of Education to the Agency of Education.

(b) All rules pertaining to career and technical education adopted by the State Board of Education under 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 prior to July 1, 2024 shall be deemed the rules of the Agency of Education and remain in effect until amended or repealed by the Agency of Education pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25.

(c) The Agency of Education shall provide notice of the transfer to the Secretary of State and the Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules in accordance with 3 V.S.A. § 848(d)(2).

*\*\*\* Postsecondary Program Articulation Agreements \*\*\**

*Sec. 7. 16 V.S.A. § 1594 is added to read:*

*§ 1594. POSTSECONDARY PROGRAM ALIGNMENT*

*(a) In order to promote a seamless pathway from CTE to postsecondary opportunities, the Vermont State Colleges Corporation shall maintain program and course articulation agreements with all secondary CTE centers in the following programs:*

*(1) manufacturing;*

*(2) engineering;*

*(3) health sciences;*

*(4) education; and*

*(5) carpentry, construction, and building trades.*

*(b) As used in this section, "articulation agreement" means an officially approved agreement between a secondary CTE center and the Vermont State Colleges Corporation that allows secondary CTE students to earn college credit for the work they complete at a secondary CTE center.*

~~*\*\*\* Position \*\*\**~~

~~*Sec. 8. POSITION; APPROPRIATION*~~

~~*(a) The establishment of one new permanent classified CTE Education Programs Coordinator position is authorized in the Agency of Education in fiscal year 2025.*~~

~~*(b) The sum of \$150,000.00 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Agency of Education in fiscal year 2025 for personal services and operating expenses for the CTE Education Programs Coordinator position established under subsection (a) of this section.*~~

~~*Sec. 8. [Deleted.]*~~

~~*\*\*\* Effective Date \*\*\**~~

~~*Sec. 9. EFFECTIVE DATE*~~

~~*This act shall take effect on July 1, 2024.*~~