

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Education to which was referred Senate Bill No. 304
3 entitled “An act relating to Vermont’s career and technical education
4 programs” respectfully reports that it has considered the same and recommends
5 that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and
6 inserting in lieu thereof the following:

7 * * * CTE Tuition * * *

8 Sec. 1. 16 V.S.A. § 1552 is amended to read:

9 § 1552. SECONDARY STUDENT TUITION

10 * * *

11 (d) The tuition charged to a school district within Vermont shall be based
12 on the ~~average of the district’s three prior years’~~ year’s full-time equivalent
13 student enrollment in the career technical center.

14 Sec. 2. 16 V.S.A. § 1561 is amended to read:

15 § 1561. TUITION REDUCTION

16 (a) ~~It~~ As used in this section:

17 (1) “Student” means a Vermont secondary student without a diploma
18 regardless of age and regardless of whether the student is enrolled in a high
19 school in Vermont.

1 (2) “Full-time equivalent student” means ~~the average~~ of a Vermont
2 school district’s ~~three prior years’~~ year’s full-time equivalent enrollment of
3 students in the career technical center.

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

6 Sec. 3. 16 V.S.A. § 1541a is amended to read:

7 § 1541a. RESPONSIBILITY OF LOCAL BOARDS IN SENDING
8 DISTRICTS

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

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

13 (2) Provide students enrolled in programs at career technical centers
14 transportation between its high school building and the career technical center
15 or centers in its designated service region or regions.

16 (3) If the career technical center for the region does not offer a course of
17 study desired by a student, pay tuition on behalf of that student who applies
18 and is accepted to another career technical center that does offer such a course
19 of study. The district of residence is not responsible for providing
20 transportation for a student attending a career technical center under this
21 subdivision.

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 current
10 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.

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* * * 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).

1 * * * Postsecondary Program Articulation Agreements * * *

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

3 § 1594. POSTSECONDARY PROGRAM ALIGNMENT

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

8 (1) manufacturing;

9 (2) engineering;

10 (3) health sciences; and

11 (4) education.

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

16 * * * Funding Structure * * *

17 Sec. 10. 16 V.S.A. § 1554 is added to read:

18 § 1554. DIRECT FUNDING ALLOCATION TO CAREER TECHNICAL
19 EDUCATION

20 (a) Beginning fiscal year 2026, each Career Technical Center (CTE) hosted
21 at a high school and each independent CTE district shall receive a direct

1 funding allocation from the Agency of Education based on the funds allocated
2 to the CTE in the previous year.

3 (1) The Agency shall calculate the direct funding allocation by adding
4 together the following funds received by a CTE in the prior year; provided,
5 however, that the Agency may alter the allocation based on information
6 received pursuant to subdivision (3) of this subsection:

7 (A) the total amount of full-time equivalent student tuition received
8 by the CTE from member districts in the preceding fiscal year;

9 (B) the total amount of the State supplemental support grant issued in
10 the prior fiscal year based on full-time equivalent enrollment;

11 (C) supplemental grants not to include competitive grants awarded to
12 the CTE in the prior year; and

13 (D) the cost associated with programmatic changes at the CTE that
14 impact operational needs.

15 (2) The funding allocation for each center developed by the Agency for
16 fiscal year 2026 shall include noncompetitive supplemental grants allocated
17 pursuant to section 1561 of this title, and salary assistance paid pursuant to
18 subdivision 1565(3) of this title. The Agency shall review information
19 provided by the CTE under subdivision (a)(1)(D) of this section to determine if
20 an increase or decrease to a CTE allocation is necessary to avoid undue

1 overpayment or underpayment of actual operating costs at the CTE in the next
2 fiscal year.

3 (b) Beginning fiscal year 2026, CTE centers at the two comprehensive high
4 schools shall receive a direct funding allocation from the Agency based on the
5 previous year's tuition charged for CTE students only and prior year
6 supplemental grants to include competitive grants. The Agency shall review
7 information provided by the CTE pursuant to this subsection to determine if an
8 increase or decrease to a CTE allocation is necessary to avoid undue
9 overpayment or underpayment of actual operating costs at the CTE in the next
10 fiscal year.

11 (c) For each fiscal year, the funding allocations calculated under this
12 section shall be increased by the most recent New England Economic Project
13 Cumulative Price Index, as of November 15, for state and local government
14 purchases of goods and services.

15 Sec. 11. CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION FUNDING UPDATE;

16 REPORT

17 (a) On or before January 15, 2025, the Agency of Education shall submit a
18 written report to the House Committees on Commerce and Economic
19 Development, on Education, and on Ways and Means and the Senate
20 Committees on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs; on
21 Education; and on Finance with the following information:

1 (1) a status update on implementation of the direct funding allocation
2 created under Sec. 10 of this act;

3 (2) a summary of communications provided to sending districts, those
4 that operate a high school and those that do not, regarding the change to the
5 districts' tuition-payment obligations;

6 (3) preliminary cost and enrollment data by CTE center;

7 (4) observations regarding preparations for the fiscal year 2026 funding
8 model created under Sec. 10 of this act; and

9 (5) any additional recommendations for changes to CTE funding
10 allocation provisions as a result of ongoing CTE governance revision work.

11 (b) On or before December 15, 2026, the Agency of Education shall submit
12 a written report to the House Committees on Commerce and Economic
13 Development, on Education, and on Ways and Means and the Senate
14 Committees on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs; on
15 Education; and on Finance regarding the following:

16 (1) a status update on transition to the Career Technical Education
17 Funding Allocation pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 1554;

18 (2) identified cost and program participation trends based on data
19 collected to implement the allocation;

20 (3) any lessons learned and policy recommendations resulting from
21 implementation of the provisions of this act, which may include:

- 1 (A) recommendations for additional legislative language
- 2 (B) an overview of the funding construct and program-specific
3 allocation development process;
- 4 (C) recommendations for transportation funding or other measures
5 designed to address barriers to participation in career technical education; and
- 6 (D) whether the State should provide incentivized development and
7 expansion of certain career technical education programs identified as
8 statewide priorities by increasing funding allocation for those programs or by
9 some other means; and
- 10 (4) a summary of any additional funding needs or cost pressures on the
11 CTE system identified during the implementation of this act.

12 Sec. 12. 16 V.S.A. § 1565 is amended to read:

13 § 1565. SALARY ASSISTANCE

14 (a) The ~~State Board~~ Agency of Education shall reimburse a school district
15 operating a career technical center for a portion of its cost in paying the salary
16 of the following persons in the roles of:

- 17 (1) the director of career technical education;
- 18 (2) a person whose principal duty is to provide guidance services for
19 career technical students, such as the director of counseling or guidance;

1 (3) a person whose principal duty is to find job training opportunities for
2 students during the time they are enrolled at the career technical center, such as
3 a co-op coordinator;

4 (4) an assistant director for adult education;

5 (5) an assistant director of career technical education, if the career
6 technical center has full-time equivalent enrollment of at least 150 and the
7 sending school population is at least 30 percent of the career technical center's
8 total full-time equivalent enrollment.

9 (b) Assistance under this section shall be determined by a formula and
10 standards established by rule of the ~~State Board~~ Agency. The formula and
11 those standards:

12 (1) Shall provide different levels of support for different positions as
13 follows:

14 (A) Directors and guidance coordinators' salary assistance shall be
15 50 percent of the State average salary and benefits for each position, ~~or 50~~
16 ~~percent of the actual salary and benefits for each individual, whichever is less~~
17 reported in the previous year.

18 (B) Assistant directors, except for assistant directors for adult
19 education, if the district is eligible, and co-op teachers' salary assistance shall
20 be 35 percent of the State average salary and benefits for each position ~~or 35~~

1 ~~percent of the actual salary and benefits for each individual, whichever is less~~
2 reported in the previous year.

3 (C) Salary assistance for assistant directors for adult education shall
4 be up to 50 percent of the State average salary and benefits paid to full-time
5 assistant directors for adult education; salary assistance shall be prorated for
6 part-time assistant directors. Salary assistance under this subdivision (1)(C)
7 shall not be paid from the Education Fund to the extent that the obligation is
8 not fully funded from the General Fund. State General Fund assistance shall
9 be divided so that each district employing an assistant director receives the
10 same base amount of State salary support. The base support shall be ~~pro-rated~~
11 prorated for part-time assistant directors. Payment under this subsection (b)
12 does not preclude a district from using other State and federal grants to
13 supplement the actual salaries and benefits of assistant directors for adult
14 education.

15 (2) Shall require as a condition of assistance that the director:

16 (A) ~~Is~~ is responsible for the overall administration of all career
17 technical programs;

18 (B) ~~Reports~~ reports administratively to the superintendent of schools
19 for the supervisory union of the school district that operates the center, or to a
20 headmaster if the career technical center is not managed by a school board;
21 and

1 (C) submits position and salary data to the Agency through the
2 Agency’s data collection mechanism in accordance with published data
3 collection timelines.

4 Sec. 13. REGIONAL CTE DISTRICTS; NOTIFICATION OF
5 SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING

6 Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, a regional CTE
7 school district shall notify the Agency, prior to November 1, 2025 for fiscal
8 year 2026 and November 1, 2026 for fiscal year 2027 whether the district will
9 propose a district budget to provide supplemental funding beyond what the
10 center will receive as a direct funding allocation in fiscal year 2026 and fiscal
11 year 2027. The district shall provide the Agency with its draft budget and a
12 rationale for the supplemental funding sought.

13 Sec. 14. REPEAL

14 16 V.S.A. § 1552 (secondary student tuition) is repealed.

15 Sec. 15. 16 V.S.A. § 1552 is added to read:

16 § 1552. SECONDARY STUDENT TUITION

17 (a) Each career technical center shall establish a tuition charge for
18 secondary career technical education. The amount shall reflect the actual cost,
19 as defined by rule of the State Board, of attendance in the career technical
20 courses offered by the center. The tuition charge shall be reduced
21 proportionally for students enrolled in a part-time program.

1 (b) Secondary students are eligible for tuition assistance in career technical
2 education provided in another state when the State Board determines that such
3 career technical education can properly serve the needs of Vermont students.

4 (c) For students from a school district within Vermont, funds received
5 under subsection 1561(c) of this title shall be subtracted when calculating the
6 tuition charge. For students who are not Vermont residents, funds received
7 under subsections 1561(b) and (c) of this title shall not be subtracted when
8 calculating the tuition charge.

9 (d) The tuition charged to a school district within Vermont shall be based
10 on the average of the district's three prior years' full-time equivalent student
11 enrollment in the career technical center.

12 * * * Effective Dates * * *

13 Sec. 16. EFFECTIVE DATES

14 (a) Secs. 10 (16 V.S.A. § 1554), 13 (regional CTE districts), and 14 (repeal
15 of 16 V.S.A. § 1552) shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

16 (b) Sec. 15 (16 V.S.A. § 1552) shall take effect on July 1, 2027.

17 (c) This section and all other sections shall take effect on July 1, 2024.

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3 (Committee vote: _____)

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Senator _____

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FOR THE COMMITTEE