

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

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

9 § 1541a. RESPONSIBILITY OF LOCAL BOARDS IN SENDING  
10 DISTRICTS

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

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

15 \* \* \*

16 (4) Provide students in grades six through eight with career enrichment  
17 and exposure, including at least one visit to or equivalent virtual experience  
18 with the school district’s regional career and technical education center.

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

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20

\* \* \*

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.

1       Sec. 3. DEVELOPMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE CAREER

2                   DEVELOPMENT POLICY; REPORT

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

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

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

11       Sec. 4. CONSTRUCTION AID; CAREER AND TECHNICAL

12                   EDUCATION

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

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

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

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

20                                   Education

1 § 1531. RESPONSIBILITY OF ~~STATE BOARD~~ SECRETARY

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

6 \* \* \*

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

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

1 student is from a school district eligible for a merger support grant pursuant to  
2 section 4015 of this title or a small school weight pursuant to section 4010 of  
3 this title, the student's full-time equivalency shall be computed according to  
4 time attending the school.

5 § 1532. MINIMUM STANDARDS; MEASUREMENT OF STANDARDS

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

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

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

13 \* \* \*

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

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

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

20 \* \* \*

1 § 1533. CAREER TECHNICAL CENTER EVALUATION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

7 (c) [Repealed.]

8 § 1534. COURSE OF STUDY EVALUATION

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

14 \* \* \*

15 Sec. 6. TRANSFER OF RULEMAKING AUTHORITY; TRANSFER OF  
16 RULES

17 (a) The statutory authority to adopt rules by the State Board of Education  
18 pertaining to the oversight of career and technical education adopted under  
19 16 V.S.A. chapter 37 and 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 is transferred from the State  
20 Board of Education to the Agency of Education.

1        (b) All rules pertaining to career and technical education adopted by the  
2        State Board of Education under 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 prior to July 1, 2024 shall  
3        be deemed the rules of the Agency of Education and remain in effect until  
4        amended or repealed by the Agency of Education pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter  
5        25.

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

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

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

11        § 1594. POSTSECONDARY PROGRAM ALIGNMENT

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

16                (1) manufacturing;

17                (2) engineering;

18                (3) health sciences;

19                (4) education; and

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



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

5                        \* \* \* Funding Structure \* \* \*

6        Sec. 8. 16 V.S.A. § 1554 is added to read:

7        § 1554. DIRECT FUNDING ALLOCATION TO CAREER TECHNICAL  
8        EDUCATION

9        (a) Beginning fiscal year 2026, each Career Technical Center (CTE) hosted  
10       at a high school and each independent CTE district shall receive a direct  
11       funding allocation from the Agency of Education based on the funds allocated  
12       to the CTE in the previous year.

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

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

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

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

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

5           (2) The funding allocation for each center developed by the Agency for  
6           fiscal year 2026 shall include noncompetitive supplemental grants allocated  
7           pursuant to section 1561 of this title and salary assistance paid pursuant to  
8           subdivision 1565(3) of this title. The Agency shall review information  
9           provided by the CTE under subdivision (1)(D) of this subsection to determine  
10           if an increase or decrease to a CTE allocation is necessary to avoid undue  
11           overpayment or underpayment of actual operating costs at the CTE in the next  
12           fiscal year.

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

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

5        Sec. 9. CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION FUNDING UPDATE;  
6                REPORT

7        (a) On or before January 15, 2025, the Agency of Education shall submit a  
8        written report to the House Committees on Commerce and Economic  
9        Development, on Education, and on Ways and Means and the Senate  
10       Committees on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs; on  
11       Education; and on Finance with the following information:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

12                        (A) recommendations for additional legislative language;

13                        (B) an overview of the funding construct and program-specific  
14        allocation development process;

15                        (C) recommendations for transportation funding or other measures  
16        designed to address barriers to participation in career technical education; and

17                        (D) whether the State should provide incentivized development and  
18        expansion of certain career technical education programs identified as  
19        statewide priorities by increasing funding allocation for those programs or by  
20        some other means; and

1           (4) a summary of any additional funding needs or cost pressures on the  
2           CTE system identified during the implementation of this act.

3           Sec. 10. 16 V.S.A. § 1565 is amended to read:

4           § 1565. SALARY ASSISTANCE

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

8                     (1) the director of career technical education;

9                     (2) a person whose principal duty is to provide guidance services for  
10           career technical students, such as the director of counseling or guidance;

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

14                    (4) an assistant director for adult education;

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

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

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

3           (A) Directors and guidance coordinators' salary assistance shall be  
4 50 percent of the State average salary and benefits for each position, ~~or 50~~  
5 ~~percent of the actual salary and benefits for each individual, whichever is less~~  
6 reported in the previous year.

7           (B) Assistant directors, except for assistant directors for adult  
8 education, if the district is eligible, and co-op teachers' salary assistance shall  
9 be 35 percent of the State average salary and benefits for each position ~~or 35~~  
10 ~~percent of the actual salary and benefits for each individual, whichever is less~~  
11 reported in the previous year.

12           (C) Salary assistance for assistant directors for adult education shall  
13 be up to 50 percent of the State average salary and benefits paid to full-time  
14 assistant directors for adult education; salary assistance shall be prorated for  
15 part-time assistant directors. Salary assistance under this subdivision (1)(C)  
16 shall not be paid from the Education Fund to the extent that the obligation is  
17 not fully funded from the General Fund. State General Fund assistance shall  
18 be divided so that each district employing an assistant director receives the  
19 same base amount of State salary support. The base support shall be ~~pro-rated~~  
20 prorated for part-time assistant directors. Payment under this subsection (b)  
21 does not preclude a district from using other State and federal grants to

1 supplement the actual salaries and benefits of assistant directors for adult  
2 education.

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

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

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

9 (C) submits position and salary data to the Agency through the  
10 Agency's data collection mechanism in accordance with published data  
11 collection timelines.

12 Sec. 11. REGIONAL CTE DISTRICTS; NOTIFICATION OF  
13 SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING

14 Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, a regional CTE  
15 school district shall notify the Agency, prior to November 1, 2025 for fiscal  
16 year 2026 and November 1, 2026 for fiscal year 2027 whether the district will  
17 propose a district budget to provide supplemental funding beyond what the  
18 center will receive as a direct funding allocation in fiscal year 2026 and fiscal  
19 year 2027. The district shall provide the Agency with its draft budget and a  
20 rationale for the supplemental funding sought.

1 Sec. 12. REPEALS

2 (a) 16 V.S.A. § 1552 (secondary student tuition) is repealed on July 1,  
3 2024.

4 (b) 16 V.S.A. § 1561 (tuition reduction) is repealed on July 1, 2025.

5 Sec. 13. 16 V.S.A. § 1552 is added to read:

6 § 1552. SECONDARY STUDENT TUITION

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

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

15 (c) For students from a school district within Vermont, funds received  
16 under subsection 1561(c) of this title shall be subtracted when calculating the  
17 tuition charge. For students who are not Vermont residents, funds received  
18 under subsections 1561(b) and (c) of this title shall not be subtracted when  
19 calculating the tuition charge.



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

4                    \* \* \* Conforming Funding Revisions \* \* \*

5        Sec. 14. 16 V.S.A. § 1522 is amended to read:

6        § 1522. DEFINITIONS

7        As used in this chapter:

8                    \* \* \*

9            (5) “Sending district” means a school district ~~paying tuition on behalf of~~  
10        that does not provide CTE courses that sends a student to a school district that  
11        provides CTE courses.

12           (6) “Receiving district” means a school district, inside or outside of this  
13        State, ~~receiving tuition on behalf of~~ that receives a student from a sending  
14        district to whom it provides career technical education. The classification of a  
15        school district as a receiving district is not altered by reason of the participation  
16        of that district in a contract for management of the regional CTE center under  
17        section 1543 of this title.

18                    \* \* \*

19           (10) ~~“CTE tuition” means the amount calculated by subtracting from~~  
20        ~~total regional technical CTE center costs all expenditures from State and~~  
21        ~~federal grants except for incentive grants, adult education grants, or other State~~

1 ~~grants as defined by State Board rule, then dividing the result by the sum of the~~  
2 ~~actual number of full-time equivalent out-of-state students and the average of~~  
3 ~~the full-time equivalent Vermont students for the three prior years. [Repealed.]~~

4 \* \* \*

5 **Sec. 15. 16 V.S.A. § 1531 is amended to read:**

6 § 1531. RESPONSIBILITY OF STATE BOARD

7 \* \* \*

8 (c) For a school district that is geographically isolated from a Vermont  
9 career technical center, the State Board may approve a career technical center  
10 in another state as the career technical center that district students may attend.

11 **In this case, the school district shall receive transportation assistance pursuant**  
12 **to section 1563 of this title and tuition assistance pursuant to subsection**

13 **1561(c) of this title.** Any student who is a resident in the Windham Southwest  
14 Supervisory Union and who is enrolled at public expense in the Charles H.  
15 McCann Technical School or the Franklin County Technical School shall be  
16 considered to be attending an approved career technical center in another state  
17 pursuant to this subsection, and, if the student is from a school district eligible  
18 for a merger support grant pursuant to section 4015 of this title or a small  
19 school weight pursuant to section 4010 of this title, the student's full-time  
20 equivalency shall be computed according to time attending the school.

1 **Sec. 16. 16 V.S.A. § 1532 is amended to read:**

2 § 1532. MINIMUM STANDARDS; MEASUREMENT OF STANDARDS

3 (a) The State Board shall adopt by rule:

4 \* \* \*

5 (6) Accounting procedures and standards, ~~including methods for~~  
6 ~~calculating tuition for career technical education.~~

7 \* \* \*

8 **Sec. 17. 16 V.S.A. 1541 is amended to read:**

9 § 1541. RESPONSIBILITY OF LOCAL SCHOOL BOARDS THAT

10 OPERATE CAREER TECHNICAL CENTERS

11 \* \* \*

12 (d) A school board that operates a CTE center:

13 (1) ~~shall establish a CTE tuition; [Repealed.]~~

14 (2) shall make the center's facilities and equipment available for  
15 providing CTE education to adults; and

16 (3) shall use and maintain all facilities designed and constructed for  
17 career technical education in a manner consistent with that purpose, except  
18 when those facilities are not needed for CTE and the Secretary consents.

19 **Sec. 18. 16 V.S.A. § 1541a is amended to read:**

20 § 1541a. RESPONSIBILITY OF LOCAL BOARDS IN SENDING

21 DISTRICTS

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

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

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

8 (3) If the career technical center for the region does not offer a course of  
9 study desired by a student, ~~pay tuition on behalf of that~~ send a student who  
10 applies and is accepted to another career technical center that does offer such a  
11 course of study. The district of residence is not responsible for providing  
12 transportation for a student attending a career technical center under this  
13 subdivision.

14 \* \* \*

15 \* \* \* Position \* \* \*

16 **Sec. 19. POSITION; APPROPRIATION**

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

20 (b) The sum of \$150,000.00 is appropriated from the General Fund to the  
21 Agency of Education in fiscal year 2025 for personal services and operating

1 expenses for the CTE Education Programs Coordinator position established  
2 under subsection (a) of this section.

3 \* \* \* Effective Dates \* \* \*

4 Sec. 20. EFFECTIVE DATES

5 (a) The following sections shall take effect on July 1, 2025:

- 6 (1) Sec. 8 (16 V.S.A. § 1554);
- 7 (2) Sec. 11 (regional CTE districts);
- 8 (3) Sec. 12 (repeal of 16 V.S.A. § 1552),;
- 9 (4) Sec. 14 (16 V.S.A. § 1522);
- 10 (5) Sec. 15 (16 V.S.A. § 1531);
- 11 (6) Sec. 16 (16 V.S.A. § 1532);
- 12 (7) Sec. 17 (16 V.S.A. § 1541); and
- 13 (8) Sec. 18 (16 V.S.A. § 1541a).

14 (b) Sec. 13 (16 V.S.A. § 1552) shall take effect on July 1, 2027.

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

16  
17  
18 (Committee vote: \_\_\_\_\_)

19 \_\_\_\_\_

20 Senator \_\_\_\_\_

21 FOR THE COMMITTEE