

1 Introduced by Representatives Graning of Jericho, Marcotte of Coventry, and

2 White of Bethel

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Education; career and technical education; governance

6 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to create a

7 statewide career and technical education school district.

8 An act relating to one statewide career and technical education school
9 district

10 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

11 * * * Repeal of Existing 16 V.S.A. Chapter 37, Subchapter 5a * * *

12 Sec. 1. REPEAL OF EXISTING 16 V.S.A. CHAPTER 37, SUBCHAPTER

13 5a

14 16 V.S.A. chapter 37, subchapter 5a is repealed.

15 * * * Enactment of Updated and Reorganized 16 V.S.A. Chapter 37,

16 Subchapter 5a* * *

17 Sec. 2. 16 V.S.A. chapter 37, subchapter 5a is added to read:

18 Subchapter 5a. Statewide Career and Technical Education School District

19 § 1571. STATEWIDE CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

20 SCHOOL DISTRICT

1 The provision of career and technical education (CTE) in the State shall be
2 provided through a single, statewide career and technical education school
3 district, subject to the provisions of this subchapter.

4 § 1572. SERVICE REGIONS

5 The statewide CTE school district is divided into the following 15 service
6 regions:

7 (1) The Burlington Technical Center and Center for Technology, Essex,
8 region is formed of the following member supervisory unions and supervisory
9 districts, their member school districts, and the following member towns:

10 (A) Burlington Supervisory District: Burlington;

11 (B) Champlain Valley Supervisory District: Charlotte, Hinesburg,
12 St. George, Shelburne, and Williston;

13 (C) Colchester Supervisory District: Colchester;

14 (D) Essex-Westford Supervisory District: Essex and Westford;

15 (E) Franklin West Supervisory Union (Fairfax School District,
16 Fletcher School District, and Georgia School District): Fairfax, Fletcher, and
17 Georgia;

18 (F) Milton Town Supervisory District: Milton;

19 (G) Mount Mansfield Unified Union Supervisory District: Bolton,
20 Buel's Gore, Huntington, Jericho, Richmond, and Underhill;

21 (H) South Burlington Supervisory District: South Burlington; and

1 (I) Winooski Supervisory School District: Winooski.

2 (2) The Central Vermont Career Center region is formed of the
3 following member supervisory unions and supervisory districts, their member
4 school districts, and the following member towns:

5 (A) Barre Unified Union Supervisory District: Barre City and Barre
6 Town;

7 (B) Caledonia Central Supervisory Union (Cabot School District,
8 Caledonia Cooperative School District, Danville School District, Peacham
9 School District, and Twinfield Unified School District): Cabot, Barnet,
10 Walden, Waterford, Danville, Peacham, Marshfield, and Plainfield;

11 (C) Harwood Unified Union Supervisory District: Duxbury, Fayston,
12 Moretown, Waitsfield, Warren, and Waterbury;

13 (D) Montpelier Roxbury Supervisory District: Montpelier and
14 Roxbury; and

15 (E) Washington Central Unified Union Supervisory District: Berlin,
16 Calais, East Montpelier, Middlesex, and Worcester.

17 (3) The Cold Hollow Career Center region is formed of the member
18 supervisory union of Franklin Northeast Supervisory Union, its member school
19 districts of Enosburgh-Richford Unified Union School District and Northern
20 Mountain Valley Unified Union School District, and the member towns of
21 Enosburgh, Richford, Bakersfield, Berkshire, Montgomery, and Sheldon.

1 (4) The Green Mountain Technology and Career Center region is
2 formed of the following member supervisory unions and supervisory districts,
3 their member school districts, and the following member towns:

4 (A) Lamoille North Supervisory Union (Cambridge School District
5 and Lamoille North Modified Unified Union School District): Cambridge,
6 Belvidere, Eden, Hyde Park, Johnson, and Waterville;

7 (B) Lamoille South Unified Union Supervisory District (Elmore-
8 Morristown Unified Union School District and Stowe School District):
9 Elmore, Morristown, and Stowe; and

10 (C) Orleans Southwest Supervisory Union (Craftsbury School
11 District, Hazen Union School District, Mountain View Union Elementary
12 School District, Stannard Town School District, and Wolcott School District):
13 Craftsbury, Hardwick, Greensboro, Woodbury, Stannard, and Wolcott.

14 (5) The Hartford Area Career and Technology Center region is formed
15 of the following member supervisory unions and supervisory districts, their
16 member school districts, and the following member towns:

17 (A) Hartford Supervisory District: Hartford;

18 (B) Mountain Views Supervisory Union (Pittsfield School District
19 and Mountain Views School District): Pittsfield, Barnard, Bridgewater,
20 Killington, Plymouth, Pomfret, Reading, and Woodstock; and

1 (C) Windsor Southeast Supervisory Union (Hartland School District,
2 Mount Ascutney School District, and Weathersfield School District):
3 Hartland, West Windsor, Windsor, and Weathersfield.

4 (6) The Lyndon Institute and St. Johnsbury Academy Applied
5 Technology Center region is formed of the following member supervisory
6 unions and supervisory districts, their member school districts, and the
7 following member towns:

8 (A) Caledonia Central Supervisory Union (Cabot School District,
9 Caledonia Cooperative School District, Danville School District, Peacham
10 School District, and Twinfield Unified School District): Cabot, Barnet,
11 Walden, Waterford, Danville, Peacham, Marshfield, and Plainfield;

12 (B) St. Johnsbury Supervisory District: St. Johnsbury;

13 (C) Kingdom East Supervisory District: Burke, Concord,
14 Lunenburg, Lyndon, Newark, Sheffield, Sutton, and Wheelock; and

15 (D) Essex North Supervisory Union (Canaan School District, Essex
16 North Supervisory Union, and NEK Choice School District): Canaan, Beecher
17 Falls, Averill, Avery's Gore, Ferdinand, Lewis, Warners Grant, Warren's
18 Gore, Bloomfield, Brunswick, East Haven, Granby, Guildhall, Kirby,
19 Lemington, Maidstone, Norton, and Victory.

1 (7) The Northwest Technical Center region is formed of the following
2 member supervisory unions and supervisory districts, their member school
3 districts, and the following member towns:

4 (A) Grand Isle Supervisory Union (Alburgh School District,
5 Champlain Islands Unified Union School District, and South Hero School
6 District): Alburgh, Grand Isle, Isle La Motte, North Hero, and South Hero;

7 (B) Maple Run Unified Supervisory District: Fairfield, St. Albans
8 City, and St. Albans Town; and

9 (C) Missisquoi Valley Supervisory District: Franklin, Highgate, and
10 Swanton.

11 (8) The North Country Career Center and Canaan Career Center region
12 is formed of the following member supervisory unions and supervisory
13 districts, their member school districts, and the following member towns:

14 (A) Essex North Supervisory Union (Canaan School District):
15 Canaan, Beecher Falls;

16 (B) North Country Supervisory Union (Brighton School District,
17 Charleston School District, Coventry School District, Derby School District,
18 Holland School District, Jay School District, Lowell School District, Morgan
19 School District, Newport City School District, Newport Town School District,
20 North Country Union High School District, North Country Union Junior High
21 School Board, Troy School District, and Westfield School District): Brighton,

1 Charleston, Coventry, Derby, Holland, Jay, Lowell, Morgan, Newport City,
2 Newport Town, Troy, and Westfield; and

3 (C) Orleans Central Supervisory Union (Lake Region Union
4 Elementary-Middle School District and Lake Region Union High School
5 District): Albany, Barton, Brownington, Glover, Irasburg, Orleans, and
6 Westmore.

7 (9) The Patricia A. Hannaford Career Center region is formed of the
8 following member supervisory unions and supervisory districts, their member
9 school districts, and the following member towns:

10 (A) Addison Central Supervisory District: Bridport, Cornwall,
11 Middlebury, Ripton, Salisbury, Shorham, and Weybridge;

12 (B) Addison Northwest Supervisory District: Addison, Ferrisburgh,
13 Panton, Vergennes, and Waltham;

14 (C) Mount Abraham Unified Supervisory District: Bristol, Monkton,
15 New Haven, and Starksboro; and

16 (D) Lincoln Supervisory District: Lincoln.

17 (10) The Randolph Technical Career Center region is formed of the
18 following member supervisory unions and supervisory districts, their member
19 school districts, and the following member towns:

1 (A) Central Vermont Supervisory Union (Echo Valley Community
2 School District and Paine Mountain School District): Orange, Washington,
3 Northfield, and Williamstown;

4 (B) Orange Southwest Unified Union Supervisory District:
5 Braintree, Brookfield, and Randolph; and

6 (C) White River Valley Supervisory Union (First Branch Unified
7 School District, Granville-Hancock Unified District, Rochester-Stockbridge
8 Unified District, Sharon School District, Strafford School District, and White
9 River Unified District): Chelsea, Tunbridge, Granville, Hancock, Rochester,
10 Stockbridge, Sharon, Strafford, Bethel, and Royalton;

11 (11) River Bend Career and Technical Center region is formed of the
12 following member supervisory unions and supervisory districts, their member
13 school districts, and the following member towns:

14 (A) Orange East Supervisory Union (Blue Mountain Union School
15 District, Oxbow Unified Union School District, Thetford Town School
16 District, and Waits River Valley Union School District #36): Groton, Ryegate,
17 Wells River, Bradford, Newbury, Thetford, Corinth, and Topsham; and

18 (B) Rivendell Interstate Supervisory District: Fairlee, Vershire, West
19 Fairlee, and Orford, New Hampshire.

1 (12) The River Valley Technical Center region is formed of the
2 following member supervisory unions and supervisory districts, their member
3 school districts, and the following member towns:

4 (A) Two Rivers Supervisory Union (Green Mountain Unified School
5 District and Ludlow-Mount Holly Unified Union School District): Andover,
6 Baltimore, Cavendish, Chester, Ludlow, and Mount Holly;

7 (B) Springfield Supervisory District: Springfield; and

8 (C) Windham Northeast Supervisory Union (Bellows Falls Union
9 High School District, Rockingham School District, Athens Grafton School
10 District, and Westminster School District): Athens, Grafton, Rockingham, and
11 Westminster.

12 (13) The Southwest Vermont Career Development Center region is
13 formed of the following member supervisory unions and supervisory districts,
14 their member school districts, and the following member towns:

15 (A) Bennington-Rutland Supervisory Union (Mettawee School
16 District, Taconic and Green Regional School District, and Winhall School
17 District): Pawlet, Rupert, Danby, Dorset, Landgrove, Londonderry,
18 Manchester, Mt. Tabor, Peru, Sunderland, Weston, and Winhall; and

19 (B) Southwest Vermont Supervisory Union (Arlington School
20 District, Mt. Anthony Union High School District #14, North Bennington
21 Graded School District, Sandgate School District, and Southwest Vermont

1 Union Elementary School District): Arlington, Bennington, Glastonbury,
2 North Bennington, Pownal, Shaftsbury, Woodford, and Sandgate.

3 (14) The Stafford Technical Center region is formed of the following
4 member supervisory unions and supervisory districts, their member school
5 districts, and the following member towns:

6 (A) Rutland City Supervisory District: Rutland City;

7 (B) Slate Valley Unified Union Supervisory District: Benson,
8 Castleton, Fair Haven, Hubbardton, Orwell, and West Haven;

9 (C) Greater Rutland County Supervisory Union (Ira School District,
10 Quarry Valley Unified Union School District, Rutland Town School District,
11 and Wells Spring Unified Union School District): Ira, Poultney, Proctor, West
12 Rutland, Rutland Town, Middletown Springs, and Wells;

13 (D) Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union (Barstow Unified School
14 District and Otter Valley Unified Union School District): Chittenden,
15 Mendon, Brandon, Goshen, Leicester, Pittsford, Sudbury, and Whiting; and

16 (E) Mill River Unified Union Supervisory District: Clarendon,
17 Shrewsbury, Tinmouth, and Wallingford.

18 (15) The Windham Regional Career Center region is formed of the
19 following member supervisory unions and supervisory districts, their member
20 school districts, and the following member towns:

1 (A) Windham Central Supervisory Union (Marlboro School District,
2 River Valleys Unified School District, Stratton School District, West River
3 Modified Union Education District, and Windham School District): Marlboro,
4 Dover, Wardsboro, Stratton, Brookline, Jamaica, Newfane, Townshend, and
5 Windham;

6 (B) Windham Northeast Supervisory Union (Bellows Falls Union
7 High School District, Rockingham School District, Athens Grafton School
8 District, and Westminster School District): Athens, Grafton, Rockingham, and
9 Westminster.

10 (C) Windham Southeast Supervisory Union (Vernon Town School
11 District and Windham Southeast School District): Vernon, Brattleboro,
12 Dummerston, Guilford, and Putney; and

13 (D) Windham Southwest Supervisory Union (Halifax School District,
14 Readsboro School District, Searsburg School District, Stamford School
15 District, and Twin Valley Unified School District): Readsboro, Stamford,
16 Searsburg, Halifax, Whitingham, and Wilmington.

17 § 1573. CTE SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERSHIP

18 (a) Members. The board of the statewide CTE school district shall be
19 composed of 15 voting members concurrently serving as members of the
20 member supervisory union boards, appointed by the superintendents of each
21 service region. The superintendent of the statewide school district shall be a

1 nonvoting member of the board. The board may, at its discretion, appoint
2 other nonvoting members to the board, including students.

3 (b) Term. Appointed members shall serve a term of two years or until the
4 member’s successor is appointed and has taken the oath of office.

5 (c) Quorum. A majority of the members of the board shall constitute a
6 quorum. The concurrence of a majority of members present at a statewide
7 CTE school district board meeting shall be necessary and sufficient for board
8 action; provided, however, the concurrence of more than a majority shall be
9 necessary if required by law or board bylaws.

10 (d) Board chair and board clerk. At the board meeting next following each
11 annual district meeting, the statewide CTE school district board shall elect one
12 of its number to serve as the chair of the board and one other of its number to
13 serve as the clerk of the board.

14 (e) Minutes. The board clerk shall prepare minutes of the proceedings of
15 the statewide CTE school district board, unless the board votes to delegate
16 those duties to another individual. The board clerk shall transmit the minutes
17 and all other documents constituting the record of board proceedings to the
18 clerk of the statewide CTE, who shall be responsible for maintaining a
19 permanent record of board proceedings. In the board clerk’s absence, another
20 member of the school board shall assume the duties of the clerk.

21 (f) Stipend. The board clerk may be paid upon order of the board.

1 § 1574. DUTIES AND AUTHORITY OF STATEWIDE CTE SCHOOL

2 BOARD

3 The school board of the statewide CTE school district authorized under this
4 subchapter, in addition to other duties and authority specifically assigned by
5 law, shall have the following duties and authority:

6 (1) To determine the statewide educational policies for career technical
7 centers. Policies shall be of general application to all centers and shall be in
8 writing, codified, and made available to the public. Board policies shall be
9 adopted at regular or special meetings. The board shall give public notice of
10 its intent to adopt a board policy, stating the substance of the proposed policy,
11 at least 10 days prior to its adoption. The board may also approve or
12 disapprove rules and regulations proposed by the superintendent for the
13 conduct and management of the centers.

14 (2) To take any action required for the sound administration of the
15 district. The Secretary of Education, with the advice of the Attorney General,
16 upon application by the board, shall decide whether any action contemplated or
17 taken under this subdivision is required for the sound administration of the
18 district and is consistent with law. The Secretary's decision shall be final.

19 (3) To have the possession, care, control, and management of the
20 property of the district, subject to the provisions of any agreement between the

1 former board of a center or member school district that previously operated a
2 CTE center and the statewide CTE school district.

3 (4) To keep the center buildings and grounds in good repair, suitably
4 equipped, insured, and in safe and sanitary condition at all times. The centers
5 shall regulate or prohibit firearms or other dangerous or deadly weapons on
6 school premises. The board’s policies in this regard shall be, at minimum,
7 consistent with section 1166 of this title and 13 V.S.A. § 4004, relating to a
8 student who brings a firearm to or possesses a firearm at school.

9 (5) To lease or purchase real and personal property, and to sell, relocate,
10 or discontinue use of real and personal property, subject to the terms and
11 conditions of applicable State law.

12 (6) To establish and maintain a system for receipt, deposit,
13 disbursement, accounting, control, and reporting procedures that meets the
14 criteria established by the State Board pursuant to subdivision 164(15) of this
15 title and that ensures all payments are lawful and in accordance with the budget
16 adopted pursuant to terms approved by the State Board. The Board may
17 authorize a subcommittee, the superintendent, or a designated employee of the
18 Board to examine claims against the district for center expenses and draw
19 orders for such as shall be allowed by it payable to the party entitled to the
20 payment. Such orders shall state definitely the purpose for which they are
21 drawn and shall serve as full authority to the treasurer to make such payments.

1 It shall be lawful for the board to submit to its treasurer a certified copy of
2 those portions of the board minutes, properly signed by the clerk and chair, or
3 a majority of the board, showing to whom, and for what purpose, each
4 payment is to be made by the treasurer, and the certified copy shall serve as
5 full authority to the treasurer to make the approved payments.

6 (7) To establish, with the advice and consent of the Auditor of Accounts
7 and the Secretary of Education, a system of accounts for the proper control and
8 reporting of center finances and for stating the annual financial condition of the
9 centers.

10 (8) To sue and be sued.

11 (9) To execute contracts on behalf of centers, including contracts
12 providing for binding arbitration, by its chair or any person designated whose
13 appointment is recorded in the minutes of the board.

14 (10) To employ persons to carry out the work of the centers and dismiss
15 any employee when necessary. The board shall consider the recommendation
16 of the superintendent and center directors before employing or dismissing any
17 person.

18 (11) To provide, at the expense of the centers, subject to the approval of
19 the superintendent and directors all learning materials, equipment, and
20 supplies.

1 (12) To employ a public accountant every year to audit the financial
2 statements of the statewide CTE school district.

3 (13) To establish policies and procedures designed to avoid the
4 appearance of board member conflict of interest.

5 (14) To borrow money by issuance of bonds or notes, not in excess of
6 anticipated revenue for the school year.

7 (15) To apply for grants and to accept and expend grants and gifts.

8 (16) To present informational materials, at the expense of the centers, to
9 the electorate on any matter to be voted; provided, however, that the materials
10 shall be limited to those that are reasonably designed to inform, educate, and
11 explain to the electorate the board’s position on the matter.

12 § 1575. VOTER CHECKLIST

13 The voter checklist for the statewide CTE school district and records of
14 proceedings shall be made and maintained in the same manner as those
15 functions are carried out in a union school district under chapter 11 of this title.

16 The checklist shall control for purposes of determining voter eligibility in the
17 statewide CTE school district.

18 § 1576. STATEWIDE CTE SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET

19 (a) The board of the statewide CTE school district shall at each annual
20 meeting present an estimate of the expenses for the ensuing year, and the
21 district shall appropriate that sum that it deems necessary for the expenses,

1 together with the amount required to pay any balance left unpaid from the
2 preceding year, expressing the sum in dollars in its vote. If a budget for the
3 operation of the district is not approved, a subsequent meeting or meetings
4 shall be warned.

5 (b) If a budget has not been approved on or before June 30 of any year, the
6 school board may borrow funds pursuant to the authority granted under section
7 566 of this title.

8 (c) Following adoption of a budget, the board shall calculate each service
9 region’s share pursuant to section 1577 of this title. Upon receipt of the notice
10 of the amount, the share shall become a legal obligation of the school districts
11 within each service region without need for further vote of the school district
12 electorate and shall be included in each school district’s education spending
13 amount.

14 § 1577. INCURRING DEBT

15 (a) If authorized by a majority of the qualified voters voting on the question
16 in accordance with this section, the statewide CTE school district may incur
17 indebtedness for improvements or the acquisition of capital assets for the
18 purposes for which the district is established as provided in this chapter.

19 (b) Each town school district, incorporated school district, unified union
20 school district, and city school district within the statewide CTE school district
21 shall vote on a decision to incur indebtedness for improvements as provided by

1 24 V.S.A. chapter 53, subchapter 1. The vote shall be determined by
2 Australian ballot or voting machine on the same day and during the same hours
3 at each regular polling place in each town school district, incorporated school
4 district, unified union school district, and city school district. Absentee voting
5 in accordance with 17 V.S.A. chapter 51, subchapter 6 shall be permitted. The
6 Board of Civil Authority of each town shall be responsible for determining the
7 eligibility of persons to vote, the supervision of the election, and the
8 transportation of ballots in its district to a central point designated by the
9 statewide CTE school district. The ballots shall be commingled. Counting of
10 ballots by representatives of the Boards of Civil Authority of the towns in the
11 service region shall be supervised by the statewide CTE school district clerk or
12 the clerk’s designee.

13 (c) Obligations incurred under 24 V.S.A. chapter 53, subchapter 1 shall be
14 the joint and several obligations of the statewide CTE school district and of
15 each of the town school districts, incorporated school districts, the member
16 towns of unified union school districts, and city school districts within the
17 service region. Any joint or several liability incurred by a town school district,
18 incorporated school district, the member towns of a unified union school
19 district, or city school district within the service region under the provisions of
20 this subchapter shall not be considered in determining its debt limit for its own
21 separate purposes.

1 § 1579. CAREER TECHNICAL COURSES IN OTHER SCHOOLS

2 Subject to any direction as to courses, teachers, or equipment that the State
3 Board may prescribe by rule, high schools may include within their courses of
4 study pretechnical or career technical courses, or both. Before establishing
5 such a program, a high school shall consult with the statewide CTE school
6 district.

7 § 1580. CREDITS AND GRADES EARNED

8 (a) Grades earned in a course offered within a CTE program approved by
9 the Agency shall not be altered by any public school or approved or recognized
10 independent school in Vermont and shall be applied by the school toward any
11 State graduation requirements in accordance with rules adopted by the Agency.
12 Any Agency rules regarding earning of credits shall allow flexibility with
13 respect to the integration of CTE education and other academic courses.

14 (b) The credits earned for a career technical education program approved
15 by the Agency shall be honored by any public or independent school within
16 Vermont. If necessary to enable a student to participate in career technical
17 education and graduate with the student’s class, the credits earned shall be
18 applied toward any school district or independent school graduation
19 requirements exceeding the minimum number of credits required by the State
20 Board. The school board of the high school from which the student wishes to
21 graduate shall make a determination as to whether the credits shall be applied

1 toward graduation requirements. A decision of a school board may be
2 appealed to the Secretary, who shall construe this section to favor participation
3 in career technical education.

4 (c) For any student attending the Vermont Academy for Science and
5 Technology pursuant to subsection 4011(e) of this title, the credits and grades
6 earned shall, upon request of the student or the student’s parent or guardian, be
7 applied toward graduation requirements at the Vermont high school that the
8 student attended prior to enrolling in the Academy.

9 § 1581. COMPREHENSIVE HIGH SCHOOLS

10 (a) In the sections referenced in this section, when applied to an
11 independent comprehensive high school, the term “school board” or “school
12 district” means “the school’s board of trustees.”

13 (b) A comprehensive high school shall charge and receive tuition pursuant
14 to section 824 of this title. A comprehensive high school shall be a career
15 technical center for the purposes of receiving funding for grants per full-time
16 equivalent student under section 1561 of this title, for tryout classes under
17 section 1562 of this title, and for reporting requirements under section 1568 of
18 this title. Funds received under this section shall be used for support of career
19 technical education programs within the comprehensive high school.

20 (c) Two or more comprehensive high schools for which the Agency has
21 designated a service region shall be a career technical center for the purposes

1 of accountability to the Agency under subchapter 2 of this chapter and
2 receiving State financial assistance under subchapter 5 of this chapter,
3 excluding the general State support grant under subsection 1561(b) of this title.
4 The statewide career and technical education school board shall determine how
5 funds received under subchapter 5 shall be distributed. A comprehensive high
6 school aggrieved by a decision of the statewide career and technical education
7 school board may appeal to the Secretary who, after opportunity for hearing,
8 may affirm or modify the decision.

9 * * * Transition to Statewide CTE School District * * *

10 Sec. 3. NEW BOARD MEMBER ELECTIONS

11 (a) Board member appointments. New board members shall be appointed
12 by the superintendents of each service region in accordance with 16 V.S.A.
13 § 1573(a) on or before XXXX.

14 (b) Staggered terms. The appointed members from the Central Vermont
15 Career Center region, the Green Mountain Technology and Career Center
16 region, the Lyndon Institute and St. Johnsbury Academy Applied Technology
17 Center region, the North Country Career Center and Canaan Career Center
18 region, the Randolph Technical Career Center region, and the River Valley
19 Technical Center region shall each serve an initial term of one year.

20 Sec. 4. TRANSITION PERIOD

1 (a) As soon as practical after the appointment of the new board members
2 pursuant to Sec. 3 of this act, the statewide CTE school district shall hold an
3 organizational meeting consistent with the provisions of 16 V.S.A. § 715
4 (organizational meeting; notice; business to be transacted).

5 (b) Within 10 business days following the district’s organizational meeting,
6 the board shall hold its inaugural board meeting. The district, through its
7 board, has and shall exercise all of the authority that is necessary for it to
8 prepare for full educational operations of the statewide CTE school district to
9 begin on July 1, 20XX. On or before June 30, 20XX [same year as
10 operational date] the board shall perform all planning, transitional, and other
11 related duties necessary to begin operations of the district on July 1, 20XX,
12 including preparing for and negotiating contractual agreements and transacting
13 any other lawful business that comes before the board, provided, however, that
14 the exercise of such authority by the district shall not be construed to limit or
15 alter the authority or responsibilities of the school districts within the member
16 supervisory unions and supervisory districts, which shall remain responsible
17 for providing career and technical education for their students until July 1,
18 20XX.

19 (c) The district shall become operational on July 1, 20XX.

1 (d) On July 1, 20XX, the board of the statewide CTE school district shall
2 assume assets and contractual obligations transferred to it by the school
3 districts formerly operating the CTE centers in existence on July 1, 2025.

4 (e) On its operational date, the statewide CTE school district shall supplant
5 all regional career and technical center school districts in existence and the
6 regional career and technical center school districts shall cease to exist.

7 Sec. 5. FINANCES

8 (a) Assets.

9 (1) Definition. For purposes of this section, “assets” means the real and
10 personal property, operating fund accounts, special fund accounts, trust fund
11 accounts, accounts receivable, and other property to which a school district
12 operating a career and technical education center on July 1, 2025 holds title or
13 over which it has control, as those assets relate to a career and technical
14 education center.

15 (2) Disposition of center land, facilities, and equipment.

16 (A) Centers owned by school districts. On or before the operational
17 date, a school district operating a career and technical education center shall
18 either:

19 (i) enter into a fully executed facilities use and related services
20 agreement with the statewide CTE school district that specifies the terms of

1 use by the statewide CTE school district of a CTE center owned by the
2 member school district; or

3 (ii) transfer to the statewide CTE school district ownership of all
4 land, facilities, and equipment assets related to the school district’s publicly
5 operated CTE center, which shall be subject to all encumbrances and
6 conditions of record.

7 (B) Centers owned by a regional CTE center school district. On or
8 before the operational date, a regional CTE center school district that owns and
9 operates a CTE center shall transfer, and the statewide career and technical
10 education center shall acquire ownership of, all assets of the regional CTE
11 center school district as of the June 30 immediately preceding the operational
12 date. The transfer of an asset shall be subject to all encumbrances and
13 conditions of record.

14 (3) Trust funds. The statewide CTE school district shall hold and apply
15 all trust funds transferred to it as the terms of the trust indicate. If the trust
16 allows, the statewide CTE school district may use the funds to benefit career
17 and technical education centers and the students attending those centers, other
18 than the career and technical education center that was originally the
19 beneficiary of the trust.

1 (4) Reserve funds. The statewide CTE school district shall hold and
2 apply all reserve funds transferred to it pursuant to the conditions imposed
3 prior to the district’s organizational meeting.

4 (b) Liabilities.

5 (1) Definitions. For purposes of this section, “liabilities” means all
6 contractual obligations, all indebtedness including principal and interest, and
7 any other legal commitment of a school district operating a career and
8 technical education center on July 1, 2025 as those liabilities relate to a career
9 and technical education center.

10 (2) Transfer and assumption of liabilities. On or before the operational
11 date, the school districts that were responsible for operation of a career and
12 technical education center on July 1, 2025 shall transfer, and the new statewide
13 career and technical education center shall assume, all liabilities associated
14 with the publicly operated career and technical education centers that exist on
15 the June 30 immediately preceding the operational date.

16 (3) Prohibition. Notwithstanding subdivision (2) of this subsection (b),
17 the statewide career and technical education school district shall not assume
18 liabilities incurred between XXXX and the operational date; provided,
19 however, that the statewide CTE school district shall assume the contractual
20 obligations of the school districts responsible for operation of a CTE center
21 regarding collective bargaining agreement or other employment contract

1 entered into during the transitional period until the agreement’s or contract’s
2 expiration.

3 (c) Unpaid expenses. At the statewide CTE school district’s first annual
4 meeting following assumption of full operations or at a later meeting as
5 necessary, the board of directors shall vote a sum sufficient to pay any unpaid
6 balance of expenses that was incurred by or on behalf of the statewide CTE
7 school district during the transitional period and apportion such sums to the
8 member supervisory unions.

9 * * * Career and Technical Education Generally * * *

10 Sec. 6. 16 V.S.A. § 1522 is amended to read:

11 § 1522. DEFINITIONS

12 As used in this chapter:

13 (1) “Secondary CTE student” means a resident of this State, of any age,
14 who has not completed high school and is enrolled in a secondary career
15 technical education program.

16 (2) “Adult student” means a resident of this State, of any age, who has
17 completed high school and who needs additional career technical education for
18 entry into the labor force or who needs to upgrade skills to qualify for higher
19 pay or for more dependable employment.

20 (3) “Secondary career technical education” or “secondary CTE” means
21 an educational program leading to a high school diploma, designed to provide

1 students with career and technical knowledge, skills, and attitudes that will
2 prepare them for further education, enhance their employment options, or lead
3 to an industry-recognized credential.

4 (4) “~~Regional~~ CTE center” means any of the 16 ~~regional~~ CTE centers
5 ~~operating with State support on January 1, 1984~~ operated by the statewide
6 career and technical education school district pursuant to subchapter 5a of this
7 chapter, and any other centers so designated thereafter by rule of the State
8 Board.

9 (5) “Sending district” means a school district paying tuition on behalf of
10 a student to a ~~school district that provides CTE courses~~ the statewide CTE
11 school district.

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

17 [Repealed.]

18 (7) “Service region” means, for each ~~regional~~ CTE center, a region
19 surrounding it designated by ~~rule of the State Board under section 1531 of this~~
20 ~~title~~ section 1572 of this title. ~~The State Board may designate a service region~~

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

3 (8), (9) [Repealed.]

4 (10) “CTE tuition” means the amount calculated by subtracting from
5 total regional technical CTE center costs all expenditures from State and
6 federal grants except for incentive grants, adult education grants, or other State
7 grants as defined by State Board rule, then dividing the result by the sum of the
8 actual number of full-time equivalent out-of-state students and the average of
9 the full-time equivalent Vermont students for the three prior years.

10 (11) “Adult career technical education” or “adult CTE” means an
11 educational program that is not part of a postsecondary degree program, that
12 does not award postsecondary credit, and that provides students with career
13 and technical knowledge, skills, and attitudes that will prepare them for further
14 education, enhance their employment options, or lead to an industry-
15 recognized credential.

16 (12) “Postsecondary career technical education” or “postsecondary
17 CTE” means an educational program or course of study that awards
18 postsecondary credit and is designed to provide students with career and
19 technical knowledge, skills, and attitudes that will prepare them for further
20 education, enhance their employment options, or lead to an industry-
21 recognized credential.

1 (13) “Postsecondary CTE student” means a resident of this State, of any
2 age, who desires to enroll in, or is enrolled in, a postsecondary CTE program.

3 (14) “Comprehensive high school” means a public or independent
4 school other than a career technical center that provides secondary career
5 technical education approved under section 1533 of this title.

6 Sec. 7. 16 V.S.A. § 1531 is amended to read:

7 § 1531. RESPONSIBILITY OF STATE BOARD

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

12 (1) Career technical education is equally available to students and is of
13 consistent quality in all parts of the State, including areas remote from career
14 technical centers.

15 (2) The timing and content of career technical education is properly and
16 flexibly coordinated with academic instruction.

17 (3) Career technical education is available to adult students, particularly
18 in areas where unemployment is high or occupational retraining needs are
19 great. This includes entering into contracts with postsecondary educational
20 institutions or with any resource supplier to provide adult programs at career
21 technical centers.

1 (4) Career technical education programs and courses of study are
2 demonstrably useful to their graduates in obtaining employment or improving
3 the quality of their employment.

4 (5) Career technical education programs are well coordinated with
5 related State programs in education and training. This includes ensuring that
6 career technical education graduates receive appropriate credit toward
7 requirements in apprenticeship programs and professional licensing programs.

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

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

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

5 Sec. 8. REPEAL

6 16 V.S.A. chapter 37, subchapter 3 is repealed.

7 Sec. 9. 16 V.S.A. § 1551 is amended to read:

8 § 1551. SECONDARY STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

9 (a) A secondary student shall be enrolled in a program of part-time or full-
10 time career technical education at a career technical center if ~~he or she~~ the
11 student:

12 (1) applies for the program; and

13 (2) is accepted into the program by the career technical center.

14 (b) ~~A secondary student who is eligible to enroll in a career technical~~
15 ~~center, but who resides in a sending school district, and who so applies, shall~~
16 ~~be enrolled for academic education in the high school associated with the~~
17 ~~career technical center if:~~

18 ~~(1) the sending school district operates a high school but does not~~
19 ~~provide daily transportation at its expense to and from the career technical~~
20 ~~center; or~~

1 ~~(2) the sending school district does not operate a high school.~~

2 [Repealed.]

3 (c) A secondary student who enrolls in a career technical center may enroll
4 part-time in any school to which ~~he or she~~ the student would otherwise be
5 entitled to enroll for full-time attendance.

6 * * * Professional Development * * *

7 Sec. 10. 16 V.S.A. § 212 is amended to read:

8 § 212. SECRETARY’S DUTIES GENERALLY

9 The Secretary shall execute those policies adopted by the State Board in the
10 legal exercise of its powers and shall:

11 * * *

12 (23) Provide professional development programs or arrange for the
13 provision of them, or both, for teachers, administrators, and staff of the
14 statewide CTE school district, which may include programs offered solely to
15 one center or service region to meet the specific needs or interests of that
16 center or region.

17 * * * Moratorium on New CTE Centers * * *

18 Sec. 11. MORATORIUM ON NEW CTE CENTERS AND PROGRAMS

19 (a) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, a school district
20 shall be prohibited from establishing, and a regional board for technical

1 education shall be prohibited from approving, any new CTE centers or
2 programs between July 1, 2025 and July 1, 2028.

3 (b) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the statewide
4 CTE school district established pursuant to 16 V.S.A. chapter 37, subchapter
5 5a shall be prohibited from establishing any new CTE centers between July 1,
6 2028, and July 1, 2033.

7 * * * CTE FINANCE SYSTEM * * *

8 **Sec. 12. [TBD]**

9 * * * Effective Dates * * *

10 Sec. 13. CONTINGENT EFFECTIVE DATE

11 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2028; provided, however, that this act
12 shall not take effect if during the 2026, 2027, or 2028 legislative session, the
13 General Assembly enacts legislation that creates new consolidated school
14 district boundaries.