

Achieving Universal CTE Access

Vermont Agency of Education

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Existing Challenges in CTE

- Access to CTE is tied to proximity to a technical center
- Inconsistent program quality and availability
- Transportation barriers limit participation
- Too many students miss early exposure and career exploration
- A lack of consistency of policies across the system
- Inconsistency in awarding credit towards graduation for successful completion of a CTE program
- Weak alignment with postsecondary pathways and state economic development goals

The throughline of each of these challenges: **variability in program quality and access across 15 distinct regions with different governance structures under a complex funding system.**

Shared Vision for the Future of CTE

- Every student has access to high-quality CTE opportunities — no matter where they live or attend school
- Alignment with postsecondary learning and Vermont's economy
- CTE embedded in middle schools and high schools statewide
- Students no longer forced to choose “academic” or “technical”

Achieving our shared vision of universal access to CTE will require a **comprehensive and coordinated approach to CTE governance.**

Advantages of Unified Governance

The main advantage of a statewide CTE ESA is that it enables Vermont to take a comprehensive and coordinated approach to CTE:

- Coordination in program availability and flexibility in enrollment: A student can attend a program where there is space, instead of navigating a waitlist process if the closest center is full
- One set of standards: A student will experience the same level of quality no matter where they receive CTE instruction
- Alignment with industry through statewide program advisory boards: A student's experience in CTE will be informed by employers and local industry to ensure that programming is relevant to future employment
- Proactive conflict resolution: scheduling, admissions process, transportation, regulations awareness, post-secondary institution partnerships
- Durable and compatible with any redistricting outcome

AOE Priorities

Above all else, the AOE is committed to achieving universal access to CTE. There is not a path to universal access under our existing fragmented system of CTE governance, and **unified governance is essential to achieving this vision.**

There is room for flexibility in how we get there, provided that our statewide approach is student-centered and achieves universal access to CTE:

- **Funding:** The AOE proposed a CTE weight with the Governor's original proposal, but offered an appropriation as an alternative given the shift in the foundation formula methodology
- **Governing Board:** AOE initially proposed a five-member board of gubernatorial appointees for the statewide ESA, but an expanded or restructured board could be effective.

Questions?