

AVTE

Alliance for Vocational Technical Education Legislation 2021

Overview of Massachusetts legislation increasing access to vocational technical education to help students on long waitlists and to help employers find new qualified workers

Context: The Alliance for Vocational Technical Education (AVTE) has worked with legislators to file these bills to expand the capacity of the state's excellent system of vocational schools. Every year, thousands of students who want to attend vocational schools in Massachusetts are denied the

opportunity, with the greatest impact felt by students from Gateway Cities and disadvantaged communities. The result is both lost educational opportunities for students and an under-supply of future skilled workers prepared for roles that need to be filled by our businesses in order to create a thriving economy.

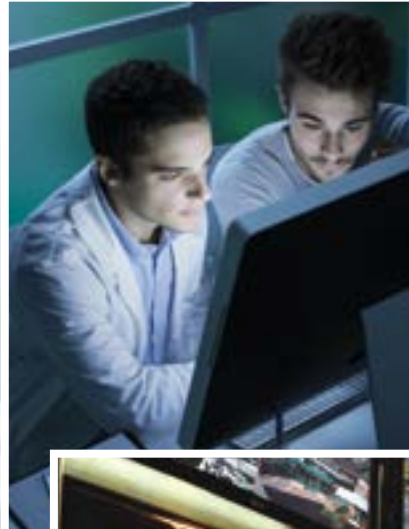
An Act to expand the capacity of career technical schools and programs.

HD 1435 introduced by Rep. Frank Moran

SD 1303 introduced by Sen. Eric Lesser

This omnibus bill would expand access to career technical education in a variety of different ways:

1. A major bonding authorization to renovate, expand, and build new vocational technical schools.
2. Establishing a Career Technical Education Funding Commission to advise on best ways to proceed on renovating, expanding, and/or building new schools.



3. Allowing longer term leasing of facilities available so schools can move quickly to expand.
4. Establishing a Deputy Commissioner of Career Technical Education and an Office of Career Technical Education at DESE.
5. Eliminating the current one-year delay in state funding to cover the costs of increased enrollments in regional vocational technical schools.
6. Empowers communities in a regional vocational school district to add school building debt payments above their levy limit so they do not have to choose between modernizing these schools and other budget needs.
7. Expands seats on the School Building Authority's Advisory Committee to include representatives from AVTE and the MA Association of Vocational Administrators.

An act to increase student access to career technical education schools and programs which are aligned with regional labor market needs.

HD 946 introduced by Rep. Lipper-Garabedian

SD 470 introduced by Sen. Jason Lewis

This bill takes two of the provisions from the above bill and puts them in this bill as an additional vehicle to move these administrative issues forward:

1. Establishing a Career Technical Education Funding Commission to advise on best ways to proceed on renovating, expanding, and/or building new schools.
2. Establishing a Deputy Commissioner of Career Technical Education and an Office of Career Technical Education at DESE.



For more information, contact the Alliance for Vocational Technical Education:

Tim Murray, Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce

tmurray@worcesterchamber.org

Kevin Farr, MA Alliance of Vocational Administrators

KevinFarr@mava.us

Robert Baldwin, MA Association of School Superintendents

rbaldwin@fairhavenps.net

Kathie Mainzer, Workforce Solutions Group

KMainzer@strategygroupinc.com

Marybeth Campbell, Worcester Community Action Council

mcampbell@wcac.net

Lew Finfer, MA Communities Action Network

LewFinfer@gmail.com