

Independent School Special Education Review Report

REPORT
May 30, 2018

Community High School of VT (CHSVT)

Submitted by
Special Education Review Team



Approval Recommendation

Five year special education re-approval in the disability categories of: autism spectrum disorders (ASD), deaf/blindness, hearing loss, emotional disturbance (ED), intellectual disability (ID), multiple disabilities (MD), orthopedic impairment, other health impaired (OHI), specific learning disability (SLD), speech or language impairment (SLI), traumatic brain injury, and visual impairment.

School Description

The Community High School of Vermont (CHSVT) is a fully accredited academic and technical high school through the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEAS&C) and is approved as an independent school by the Vermont State Board of Education. CHSVT operates within the functions of the Vermont Department of Corrections and the regulatory responsibilities of the Vermont Agency of Education. Students are under the custody of the Commissioner of the VTDOC; therefore, the design, operation, and continuous improvement of this school are tailored to the context of corrections and provides programs that balance public safety and security with the educational needs of its students.

It is the policy of CHSVT to provide a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) for students with disabilities to meet their unique needs and prepare them for employment and independent living in accordance with all state and federal laws and regulations including IDEA, ADA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. Pursuant to VT Agency of Education Special Education Regulations, LRE, and certain IEP requirements may be adjusted due to the nature of the student's placement. Reasonable accommodations, modifications, and services will be provided to entitled individuals to enable them to access or benefit from the educational program. All notice and due process requirements of the above-mentioned laws are provided.

Currently, there is one student being evaluated for special education and no students with IEPs.

Review Description

CHSVT, has correctional facility campuses in South Burlington, Rutland, Newport, St. Johnsbury, Swanton, and Springfield. There are community campuses in Barre, Bennington, Brattleboro, Burlington, Hartford, Rutland, St. Albans, Springfield, and St. Johnsbury. CHSVT administrative office, in Waterbury, was visited by Agency of Education staff on 4/10/2018. A visit was conducted to the Brattleboro Campus on 4/19/18, to the Barre Campus on 5/7/18, and to the Newport and St. Johnsbury campuses on 5/29/18. During the visits, the Agency employees interviewed staff, toured facilities, observed staff/student interactions, and reviewed student files and IEPs. Student file samples were provided to examples of how CHSVT maintains documentation, though no current students are being served on an IEP.

Review Findings

2228.1 – CHSVT demonstrated the policies, procedures, and staff training to support students in the disability categories of; autism spectrum disorders (ASD), deaf/blindness, hearing loss, emotional disturbance (ED), intellectual disability (ID), multiple disabilities, orthopedic impairment, and other health impaired (OHI), specific learning disability (SLD), speech or language impairment (SLI), traumatic brain injury (TBI), and visual impairment (VI).

2228.3 – CHSVT demonstrated written policies and/or procedures in the areas of: (1) admissions, (2) least restrictive environment (per Vermont Rule 2360.2.5[1] [iv] [B]), (3) discipline, (4) graduation, (5) faculty qualifications, and (6) faculty-student ratios.

2228.3.1 – CHSVT demonstrated sufficient evidence in all of the following: minimum maintenance of (1) educational records and coordination with other LEAs, (2) participation in evaluation and IEP procedures, (3) and implementation of IEPs.

2228.3.2 – CHSVT meets expectations regarding licensed staff. Special education teachers are licensed by the Agency of Education.

2228.4 – CHSVT demonstrated policies, procedures, and written agreements outlining tuition and establishment of the division of legal responsibilities with regards to students on IEPs.

Questions: Contact Chris Kane at chris.kane@vermont.gov