

# NORTHWEST TECHNICAL CENTER

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[nwtc.fcsuvt.org](http://nwtc.fcsuvt.org)

December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016

Dear Vermont Standards Board for Professional Educators,

I'm writing on behalf of the Vermont Association of Career & Technical Education Directors that wish to share our recommendations on the VSBPE requirements for a Level I license for our career and technical educators.

We are recommending that the requirements for a Level I license be a 4-year Apprenticeship license with 24 credits. While the length of the Career & Technical Education Teacher Preparation program has not changed since the program was started over twenty years ago, many demands within the program have. During the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) era, an additional 24 credits and the Praxis I (now Praxis Core), were both added requirements. Additionally, requirements changed to include the level I licensure portfolio while still leaving the program on a 3-year completion timeline.

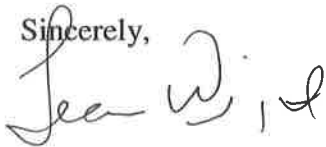
At the local school level, requirements and initiatives have added additional responsibilities to new teachers, while participating in the Career & Technical Education Teacher Preparation program.

When the program was first created, it included 24 credits in education. At some point in the 2000s, the VSBPE regulations were changed to include an additional 24 college level credits, in any content area. For educators who do not already have these credits, it is typical for them to take the CCV Course Assessment of Prior Learning to obtain credits for their life experience, knowledge, and skills. These credits are usually in the content area they will be teaching. This additional work does not in any way add to the knowledge and skills the teacher needs to be a better educator, but does add an entire semester to their completion timeline.

It is hard enough to compete with industry for these talented teachers, many take a pay cut when entering the profession. It is very difficult to recruit new teachers into CTE, while providing them the tools necessary to be successful in the classroom and with licensing requirements. There may be a critical shortage of people applying for these jobs and ultimately retaining them beyond the apprenticeship license period if we are unable to request an extension. Changing it to a 4-year license and reducing the credit to just the education credits, would solve that problem.

Please carefully consider these changes to improve the Career & Technical Education Teacher Preparation program that has grown into a system that no longer meets the needs of non-traditional teachers entering the field.

Sincerely,



Leeann Wright

Director, Northwest Technical Center

President, Vermont Association of Career & Technical Education Directors