

MEMORANDUM

TO: Regional CTE Directors and Fast Forward Coordinators

FROM: Lisa Helme, Assistant Director, Student Pathways Division

SUBJECT: CTE Fast Forward Participation Agreement 2025-2026

DATE: January 8, 2025

CTE Fast Forward Participation Agreement

The Vermont Agency of Education and Vermont's higher education partners continue their collaborative efforts to create a system in which high school students may enroll in college courses. The Fast Forward program serves to introduce students to collegelevel coursework taught concurrently at their CTE center or online before they immerse themselves fully in college life. It allows college coursework to be applied for progress toward secondary school completion, and it can provide high school graduates with a jumpstart on college credits.

The Fast Forward Program allows students enrolled in Career Technical Education (CTE) programs to earn credit for college courses taken as part of their education at a regional CTE center. Fast Forward is for eligible CTE students who have not yet graduated from high school and who are enrolled in a partner CTE center program. The courses are taught at the regional CTE Center or online, and may:

- allow students to meet their high school graduation requirements while also earning college credits;
- result in completing a college degree faster; and
- assist students in beginning a career earlier.

The Fast Forward Program is managed through the AOE's Dual Enrollment (DE) System. A student must have an approved DE System account in order to access Fast Forward courses. Authorization of accounts is managed by the sending high school. Once a student has an approved Dual Enrollment System account the student will be able to make Fast Forward course requests that will be approved by the secondary school coordinator at the CTE center. The Dual Enrollment System tracks Fast Forward course requests and collects information for reporting purposes.

CTE centers must coordinate with the college providing the Fast Forward course(s) to ensure that the student meets the college's eligibility requirements (the student has

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qualifying **WorkKeys** or **Accuplacer** scores, the student has provided a qualifying high school transcript, and/or the student has met any other requirements the college has articulated to CTE centers).

Secondary and post-secondary institutions shall ensure that students meet eligibility requirements as defined by state policy, which are subject to change based on legislative action.

Please refer to current guidance regarding eligibility and enrollment in the <u>Dual</u> <u>Enrollment Program Manual.</u>

The Participation Agreement process involves two steps.

- 1. Complete and submit the <u>CTE Fast Forward Participation Agreement FY26</u> by **February 14, 2025.**
- Upon submitting this completed form, an AOE designee will convert the completed form into a **DocuSign*** document which will then be routed to the Technical Center Director, or their designee, for signature to be maintained on file.

***DocuSign** is the AOE's official e-signature tool. Signatures indicate understanding of and assurance that corresponding Participation Agreement responsibilities will be met.

We look forward to our continued work with you to fulfill the expectations of the Flexible Pathways Initiative and the implementation of the Vermont Dual Enrollment and Fast Forward Programs. If you have any questions concerning these programs, please contact <u>AOE.DualEnrollment@vermont.gov.</u>

Dual Enrollment Resources:

Dual Enrollment Webpage

