

**AGENCY OF EDUCATION
Barre, Vermont**

TEAM: School Finance

ITEM: Will the State Board of Education grant renewal of independent school approval to serve students in the twelfth grade to Vermont Academy of Science and Technology (VAST), Randolph, VT?

SECRETARY'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

That the State Board of Education grants renewal of independent school approval to serve students in the twelfth grade to Vermont Academy of Science and Technology (VAST), Randolph, VT. This approval is for three years through November 1, 2020, to coincide with VAST's current accreditation period,

Approval is subject to the condition that the school immediately report to the Agency of Education whenever changes occur in enrollment, programs, policies, facilities, financial capacity, staffing or administration, during the approval period.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 16 V.S.A. § 166 (b)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

1. Vermont Technical College (VTC) established the Vermont Academy of Science and Technology (VAST) for students in the twelfth grade. The students are afforded an opportunity to spend their senior year of high school at VTC completing both requirements for high school graduation, by agreement with the sending school, and the first year of an associate degree program.
2. Vermont Technical College is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and College's (NEASC) Commission on Institutions of Higher Education. NEASC is an accrediting body recognized by the State Board of Education pursuant to SBE rule #7320. The next major responsibility regarding accreditation will be a self-study report to be submitted in preparation of the Fall 2020 NEASC evaluation visit.

3. VAST received preliminary approval from the State Board of Education on June 20, 1989 through June of 1990. Subsequent renewals, have enabled VAST to hold SBE approval continually since that time.
4. There were 59 students enrolled in VAST for the 2016-2017 school year.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS: none

STAFF AVAILABLE:

Cassandra Ryan, Finance Analyst
479-8545