

Jeffrey C. Riley
Commissioner

Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

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June 30, 2023

Paul Haughey, Superintendent
Spencer East Brookfield
306 Main Street
Spencer, MA 01562

Dear Superintendent Haughey:

Spencer East Brookfield applied for a new secondary-level Chapter 74 Environmental Science and Technology program at David Prouty High School. The Chapter 74 approval process requires that programs meet Massachusetts General Law Chapter 74 and the criteria in the Vocational Technical Education Regulations 603 CMR 4.00, which include demonstration of the labor market and student demand for the program. Applications must also demonstrate consultation with nearby school districts offering the same Chapter 74 program. The application process ensures that Chapter 74 programs meet legal standards, address the needs of the area the school district serves, and increase student access to high quality programs.

I am writing to inform you that Commissioner Jeffrey Riley has granted Chapter 74 approval to Spencer East Brookfield for the new secondary-level program titled Environmental Science and Technology. The Classification of Instructional Program (CIP) code for this program is 150507 and the State title is Environmental Science and Technology. When reporting student enrollments to the Department for October 2023 in the Student Information Management System (SIMS), this CIP code and State title should be used.

The Vocational Technical Education Regulations 603 CMR 4.03 (4) require that approved vocational technical education programs “be based on the applicable Career Technical Education Framework and the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks.” The Career Technical Education Framework for your program is Environmental Science and Technology. It is available [here](#).

The Vocational Technical Education Regulations 603 CMR 4.03 (5) also require that “all personnel in the vocational technical education program...have an appropriate educator license.” On June 4, 2020, Governor Baker signed special legislation, Chapter 92 of the Acts of 2020, creating an emergency license. This license will help aspiring educators looking to join the profession, people who hold a license in one category (teacher, administrator, specialist teacher, or professional support personnel) who have been prevented by COVID-19 from qualifying for a license in another category, and school districts looking to bring on new hires.

The emergency license will be valid for employment in the 2023-24 school year and will expire on

June 30, 2024.

In the case of Spencer East Brookfield application for the above-mentioned program, the program teacher has an **emergency license**, permitting the individual slated to assume the role of vocational technical instructor. Consequently, the school district is obligated to meet the following conditions:

1. To work with the instructor serving with an emergency license to ensure progress toward licensure according to the timeframe specified by the DESE Licensure Office;
2. To seek to fill the instructional position with a licensed teacher for the 2023-2024 school year;
3. To inform the Office for College, Career, and Technical Education, by June 1 of any year that the program operates with a waived instructor, or the district's progress and plans with respect to securing an appropriately licensed instructor.

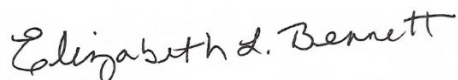
The program being approved in this letter, Environmental Science and Technology, must have either an appropriately licensed teacher or a teacher on an approved waiver by June 30, 2024.

At any point, should the school district offer this or any vocational technical program with neither an appropriately licensed vocational technical instructor nor an instructor under a current waiver, the district may not report to DESE participating students as enrolled in a Chapter 74 program.

The Vocational Technical Education Regulations 603 CMR 4.04 (4) require that substantial changes in approved programs be submitted to the Department in writing for review and approval prior to implementation. A substantial curricular change in an approved program is when more than twenty-five percent of the total skills to be taught are modified. A substantial curricular change of more than fifty percent of the skills in an approved program would require the program to be approved as a new program. A substantial change in the program that involves the other approval criteria must receive Department approval prior to implementation. If programs are moved to new facilities, the new facilities and equipment must be reviewed by the Department.

If you require technical assistance, please feel free to contact the liaison for your district, Ramona Foster, at Ramona.b.foster@mass.gov or 781-338-3945.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth L. Bennett
Associate Commissioner
Office for College, Career, and Technical Education

c: Jeffrey C. Riley, Commissioner, Elementary and Secondary Education
Marnie Jain, Office for College, Career, and Technical Education
Ramona Foster, District Liaison, Office for College, Career, and Technical Education
Nathan Malone, Principal, David Prouty High School

Matthew Bolduc, Director of Academic Affairs, David Prouty High School