

Chapter 74 Vocational Technical Education Viability Documentation

This form and other information and evidence referenced herein must be submitted as a component of all Massachusetts School Building Authority (<https://massschoolbuildings.org/about>) projects that include plans to:

- Continue to offer existing Chapter 74 state-approved Vocational Technical Education (VTE) programs
- Expand the size of, contract the size of, or close existing Chapter 74 state-approved Vocational Technical Education (VTE) programs; and/or
- Add new Chapter 74 state-approved Vocational Technical Education (VTE) programs.

Completed forms and attachments should be returned to MSBA.

NOTE: The information provided by MSBA applicants does not eliminate the requirement to engage in the MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education’s Chapter 74 New Program Application process in its entirety **in the year prior to** the proposed program’s opening. However, submission of this information will allow DESE to provide MSBA with a “**viability**” letter that would result in a potential recommendation that the MSBA Board of Directors vote to authorize the district to proceed into schematic design phase of the building project.

Overview of Chapter 74 Programs

1. **General Information.** Complete the table below for all current and proposed Chapter 74 Programs to be considered for inclusion in the proposed project.

Our existing Chapter 74 programs are all viable and would not be slated for closure as part of a MSBA project. We have 12 program choices for students, two of which contain multiple Chapter 74 designations.

Within our existing programs, we regularly have a post-Exploratory waiting list for Electrical and Metal Fabrication Welding, and most recently we have seen waiting lists for HVAC-R. These three programs would have planned program enrollment expansions even without an increase in student enrollment.

Of our remaining programs, the program enrollment expansion is based on adding 60 students per year given unmet demand from within the district. So all of the projected program enrollments are increasing.

With the possibility of the addition of the town of Marshfield to the district, we anticipate that 25-30 students per year could be added to the unmet demand. This would add 100-120 students to all of the projected figures.

With those assumptions noted, we also recognize that if one or more new programs were added, it would impact certain program enrollment projections (in other words, if you open program X, it is likely that program Y’s enrollment will be impacted). We surveyed

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our students about potential new programs, and their interest levels provided data that could suggest possible migration:

- a. *If we expand Electrical and/or add Plumbing, HVAC enrollment would be lower and other construction shops might see some migration, but we expect that a larger student body would fill all slots given that construction industry programs are very popular.*
- b. *If we added Dental Assisting, Early Childhood and/or Animal Science, we would probably attract students to SST who may have never applied (or who have sought county agricultural education for animal science; please note that there is no agricultural school in Plymouth County). These new programs might also draw students from Cosmetology, Design & Visual Communications/Graphic Communications or other service programs. However, as with construction programs above, it would not shrink program enrollment because more students coming to SST would fill those seats.*

Medical Assisting would also draw from service programs, and there would be a decline in Allied Health enrollment if students were required to choose. We believe Medical Assisting would be best suited as part of Allied Health, but Dental Assisting would be a separate program (given the more substantial difference in program curriculum and equipment).

- c. *Biotechnology would also draw from manufacturing programs, and there would be a decline in Manufacturing Engineering Technology enrollment if students were required to choose. We believe Biotechnology would be best suited as part of the Manufacturing Engineering Technology program.*
- d. *Programming & Web Development would draw from Computer Information Technology and other technology based programs such as Design Visual Communications. There would be a decline in Computer Information Technology enrollment if students were required to choose. We believe Programming & Web Development would be best suited as part of the Computer Information Technology program.*

South Shore Regional Vocational School District			
<i>Estimated figures are based on in-district students only and do not include the potential for Marshfield joining the district.</i>			
Chapter 74 Program Offerings	Current Enrollment	Proposed Capacity	Comment*
Exploratory	170	230	Existing Program to be expanded based on wait list
Allied Health	46	60	Existing Program to be expanded based on wait list
Automotive	55	72	Existing Program to be expanded based on wait list
Carpentry	49	64	Existing Program to be expanded based on wait list
Computer Information Technology (CIT)	34	44	Existing Program to be expanded based on wait list

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South Shore Regional Vocational School District			
<i>Estimated figures are based on in-district students only and do not include the potential for Marshfield joining the district.</i>			
Chapter 74 Program Offerings	Current Enrollment	Proposed Capacity	Comment*
Cosmetology	44	57	Existing Program to be expanded based on wait list
Culinary Arts	49	64	Existing Program to be expanded based on wait list
Electrical	64	123	Existing Program to be expanded due to increasing overall enrollment AND strong internal demand
Design Visual Communications (includes Design Visual Comm & Graphic Comm)	45	59	Existing Program to be expanded based on wait list
HVAC-R	47	61	Existing Program to be expanded based on wait list
Horticulture & Landscape Construction	57	74	Existing Program to be expanded based on wait list
Manufacturing Engineering Technologies (Adv Manufacturing, Electronics, Eng.Tech)	40	52	Existing Program to be expanded based on wait list
Metal Fabrication & Welding	65	105	Existing Program to be expanded due to increasing overall enrollment AND strong internal demand
Existing programs subtotal (no Expl.)	595	834	Increase based on likely enrollment increase of 35% based on waiting list data plus internal waiting list data
Early Education & Care	0	40	New program
Medical Assisting	0	10	New program; likely to be affiliated with Allied Health
Plumbing	0	40	New program; could affiliate with HVAC or run as independent program
Animal Science	0	40	New program
Dental Assisting	0	40	New program
Programming & Web Development	0	15	New program; likely to be affiliated with CIT
Biotechnology	0	15	New program; ;likely to be affiliated with Manufacturing Engineering Technologies
New program subtotal	0	200	
Total	595	1034	

* Indicate whether the program is an existing program, proposed to be expanded, a new program, a program to be scaled down, or program to be discontinued.

- School Committee Support.** Provide a copy of the school committee meeting minutes, which include language and outcome of the vote regarding the Chapter 74 Programs to be studied as part of the feasibility study for the proposed project.

If Expanding the Size of Existing Chapter 74 Programs

- General Information.** Please provide the name of your district, and the existing Chapter 74 program(s) you are proposing to expand in conjunction with this MSBA project.

Currently we have 650 students of which 55 students are non resident. The current enrollment figures are only for district students.

All programs are showing as “expanded” because of the waiting list demand, estimated to be 60 students per year. These figures do not include the potential demand from Marshfield, which could add 25-30 students per year onto the 60 student projection.

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If the school did not increase overall enrollment (and were limited to 170 students per incoming class) the programs that would need to expand due to strong internal demand would be Electrical and Metal Fabrication/Welding.

South Shore Regional Vocational School District			
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Existing programs subtotal (no Expl.)	595	834	Increase based on likely enrollment increase of 35% based on waiting list data plus internal waiting list data

- 2. Student Demand.** Please provide evidence of increased student demand for the Chapter 74 programs you propose to expand. The best source of data for this would include recent waitlist trend data for both entrance to the school (which will provide evidence for the expansion of 9th grade exploratory) and in student selection of programs after completing exploratory.

Recent wait list data shows that the district has an average student waiting list of 76 (with available district data from 4 of the past 5 years). If we assume that 20% of the 76 wait listed students would not attend even if offered admission, that would yield a net demand of 60 students per year who would come to SST if there were space.

In addition, the town of Marshfield is exploring the possibility of joining the district. Marshfield's 8th grade enrollment over the next 5 years is projected to be 17.95% of our region, which would equate to 32 students per year if we were to admit our typical class of 170. If this number were reduced to 25 students per year as a conservative annual estimate,

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and added to the 60 students on a waiting list, that would suggest a demand equalling 85 students per year or 340 additional students to the building.

One other significant factor, we believe, is that by offering new programs that have strong labor market demand and that historically attract a majority female population, we will be addressing an equity issue and attracting new students to SST who otherwise would not apply. Our school is the most lopsided by gender, with only 1/3rd of the students female (compared to our catchment area where the breakdown is closer to 50% female). Offering programs in Dental Assisting, Early Childhood or Animal Science would undoubtedly increase applications to SST.

If Adding New Chapter 74 Programs

- 1. General Information.** Please provide the name of your district, and the new Chapter 74 program(s) you are considering applying for in conjunction with this MSBA project.

South Shore Regional Vocational School District		
Chapter 74 Program Proposed	Alignment with Critical Industries and Occupations in Southeast Regional Blueprint	Local Demand Documented
Early Education & Care	No	Yes: Student interest survey; employer survey
Medical Assisting	Yes: Health Care	
Plumbing	Yes: Construction	
Animal Science	No	Yes: Student interest survey; employer survey
Dental Assisting	Yes: Health Care	
Programming & Web Development	Yes: Professional & Technical	
Biotechnology	Yes: Manufacturing	

- 2. Alignment with Regional Workforce Development Priorities and Critical Industries and Occupations.** The Governor's Office and DESE seek to ensure that Chapter 74 program approvals align with regional workforce needs. The Department encourages Chapter 74 program applications that:
 - Align with regional occupational priorities as outlined in [the state's MassHire regional workforce development Blueprints](#); and
 - Demonstrate evidence of consultation and collaboration involving regional MassHire Boards (formerly Workforce Investment Boards); school districts, including regional vocational technical school districts and, where applicable, county agricultural school districts; postsecondary educational institutions; and other key regional stakeholders as appropriate.

Proposed programs that do not align with priorities and critical needs as outlined in a regional Blueprint may still be viable, if they are accompanied by an analysis of need that is grounded in labor market demand, student demand, and support from the stakeholders listed above.

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REGION 1: Berkshire - Includes Berkshire Workforce Area
 REGION 2: Pioneer Valley - Includes Franklin/Hampshire and Hampden Workforce Areas
 REGION 3: Central Massachusetts - Includes North Central and Central Massachusetts Workforce Areas
 REGION 4: Northeast - Includes Greater Lowell, Lower Merrimack and North Shore Workforce Areas
 REGION 5: Greater Boston - Includes Boston (Private Industry Council), Metro North, and Metro South/West (Partnerships for a Skilled Workforce) Workforce Areas
 REGION 6: Southeast - Includes South Shore, Brockton, Bristol, and New Bedford Workforce Areas
 REGION 7: Cape Cod and Islands - Includes Cape Cod and Islands Workforce Area

Does the Chapter 74 program (or programs) you are considering align with a priority industry sector and/or occupation for your region of the Commonwealth for the next 5 to 10 years?

- Yes, the program(s) we are considering align with a priority or critical **industry** within the region.
 Yes, the program(s) we are considering align with a priority or critical **occupation** within the region.
- Yes, the program(s) we are considering align with a priority or critical **industry and occupation** within the region
 No, the program(s) we are considering do not align with regional priorities or critical needs.

3. Labor Market Demand. If the proposed program does not align with regional priorities or critical industries and occupations outlined in Question 2 above, it is the obligation of the applicant to make a compelling case for the viability of the program with respect to labor market demand. If you were able to answer ‘Yes’ to any of the conditions described in Question 2 above, no further labor market demand information is required.

<p><i>Early Education & Care</i></p>	<p><i>A recent employer survey of likely employers (n=16) of Early Childhood majors indicated a 100% affirmative response to the question: If South Shore Technical High School offered an Early Education & Care Program to our students, would this be beneficial to you as a local employer? In other words, is the demand enough that creating new prospective employees would be beneficial to your organization?</i></p> <p><i>Employer responses were positive, showing support for the program and the possibility of partnering with South Shore Tech to offer student practicums, internships, and co-op opportunities, as well as offers to speak with us further on developing the program.</i></p> <p><i>Some examples of responses are:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>“We would love to partner with your school and even help with student practicums and internships! We love helping teachers grow and partnering with schools.”</i> - <i>“This would be wonderful! I participate at my W. Bridgewater location with students from South Easton Vo Tech and it is so beneficial for both parties. We</i>
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	<p>would love to participate! Please call with any questions. This is a wonderful and much needed program.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “This is SOOOO exciting to hear!!! I feel this is a HUGE asset to our field. Currently we work with Silver Lake CTE and we bring on co-op students each year to work in our programs. Some continue onto college and many continue working in our programs and grow as an educator. We would love having this opportunity to work and train young future educators from SST HS.”
<p>Animal Science</p>	<p>A recent employer survey of likely employers (n=15) of Animal Science majors indicated a 93.33% affirmative response to the question: <i>If South Shore Technical High School offered an Animal Science Program to our students, would this be beneficial to you as a local employer? In other words, is the demand enough that creating new prospective employees would be beneficial to your organization?</i></p> <p>The one who didn’t respond affirmatively, replied “I don’t know” based on learning more about the program and skills that would be acquired.</p> <p>Some examples of responses are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “There is a huge demand for groomers. I have been looking for 2 years for a qualified applicant. I know others in the industry that are in the same position. I am not aware of a grooming school on the south shore. Therefore, I do believe it would be a benefit to the students and my industry to offer such a program.” - “I totally support this and believe this is exactly what the industry needs. I am a CVT graduate from Mount Ida.” - “The canine behavioral and cognitive field is rapidly expanding...As long as you work to add educated people into this field that work off evidence-supported practices, our company will do whatever we can to help support that mission.”

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- 4. Student Demand.** Please provide preliminary evidence of student demand for the proposed new programs (this could include recent waitlist trend data, waitlist data for similar/proximate programs, student demand for the new program(s) statewide and regionally). This is particularly important for proposed new capital-intensive programs such as those in the Agriculture and Natural Resources, Construction, or Transportation Clusters, or a program like Advanced Manufacturing.

	<i>Recent waitlist trend data</i>	<i>Waitlist data for similar programs</i>	<i>Survey given to current SST students, with a 64.9% response rate (n=422), the following % of students said they were "Very Interested" or "Possibly Interested" in this program</i>		<i>Survey of incoming 9th grade students (Class of 2027), with a 39% response rate (n=67), the following % of students said they were "Very Interested" or "Possibly Interested" in this program</i>		<i>Number of Chapter 74 programs in the Southeast Region</i>
<i>Early Education & Care</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>49%</i>	<i>Very: 85 Possibly: 122</i>	<i>54%</i>	<i>Very: 17 Possibly: 19</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>Medical Assisting</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>37%</i>	<i>Very: 46 Possibly: 109</i>	<i>58%</i>	<i>Very: 21 Possibly: 18</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Plumbing</i>	<i>HVAC-R currently has a plumbing component and the program had a waiting list for start of 21-22 school year</i>		<i>59%</i>	<i>Very: 114 Possibly: 133</i>	<i>77%</i>	<i>Very: 30 Possibly: 22</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Animal Science</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>63%</i>	<i>Very: 128 Possibly: 138</i>	<i>82%</i>	<i>Very: 30 Possibly: 25</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Dental Assisting</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>37%</i>	<i>Very: 53 Possibly: 103</i>	<i>48%</i>	<i>Very: 16 Possibly: 16</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Programming & Web Development</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>35%</i>	<i>Very: 47 Possibly: 102</i>	<i>73%</i>	<i>Very: 21 Possibly: 20</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Biotechnology</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>50%</i>	<i>Very: 81 Possibly: 132</i>	<i>61%</i>	<i>Very: 16 Possibly: 25</i>	<i>1</i>

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In addition we asked guidance counselors from our sending middle schools (who serve as liaisons to our admissions counselor) for their assessment of student interest in technical education programs (6 out of 8 responded):

<i>Early Education & Care</i>	<i>Very: 83% Possibly: 17%</i>
<i>Medical Assisting</i>	<i>Very: 83% Possibly: 17%</i>
<i>Plumbing</i>	<i>Very: 83% Possibly: 17%</i>
<i>Animal Science</i>	<i>Very: 67% Possibly: 33%</i>
<i>Dental Assisting</i>	<i>Very: 50% Possibly: 50%</i>
<i>Programming & Web Development</i>	<i>Very: 83% Possibly: 17%</i>
<i>Biotechnology</i>	<i>Very: 50% Possibly: 50%</i>

Resources: Please refer to the [Guidelines for demonstrating student and labor market demand.](#) Please also consider asking your local MassHire Board for assistance.

- 5. Consultation with Industry, MassHire Boards, and Postsecondary Partners.** New Chapter 74 programs under consideration must be planned in consultation with industry experts and postsecondary partners. The formal Chapter 74 application process requires the formation of Program Advisory Committee (see [Program Advisory Committee for VTE Form](#)). For the purposes of a MSBA project, preliminary consultation with your MassHire board, associated industries, and higher education representatives (where applicable) in your region is sufficient. Please provide evidence that this consultation has occurred and that such consultation included information about workforce and job development demands or job market trends and student demand.

Attached are letters sent to representatives at MassHire South Shore and MassHire Greater Brockton, as well as letters sent to Massasoit Community College and Quincy College.

- 6. Consultation with other potential providers of Chapter 74 programs in your region.** Please provide a description of any consultation that has already been conducted, along with consultation that is planned. See specific consultation expectations in the Consultation Appendix to guide your description.

There are no other Chapter 74 programs offered within our regional school district's sending communities.

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Consultation Appendix. Please review and address all parts that apply to your situation.

1. For Districts that are Members of Regional Vocational Technical Schools

DESE requires that applicant school districts that are members of regional vocational technical school districts consult, and provide evidence of consultation, with the regional vocational technical school district.

This expectation applies regardless of whether the program under consideration duplicates one currently available within the regional vocational technical school district. Consultation between school districts considering new Chapter 74 programs and the regional vocational technical school districts to which they belong is intended to encourage cooperation in the provision of technical programming, the coordination of efforts, and strategic alignment with regional workforce needs.

- A. *Please specify the regional vocational technical school district of which the prospective applicant is a member.*

N/A

- B. *Does the program(s) you are proposing duplicate one currently offered at the regional vocational school district indicated above?*

No

Yes

N/A

- C. *Have you engaged in discussions with the regional vocational technical school district regarding your consideration of the program(s) indicated above with respect to your MSBA project?*

No

Yes, and I'm attaching additional documentation of these discussions.

N/A

2. For Regional Vocational Technical Schools

DESE requires that regional vocational technical school districts consult, and provide evidence of consultation, with all member cities and towns. This expectation applies regardless of whether the program(s) under consideration duplicates ones currently available within any member cities and towns. Consultation between the regional vocational technical school districts and member cities and towns is intended to encourage cooperation in the provision of technical programming, the coordination of efforts, and strategic alignment with regional workforce needs.

- A. *What are the member cities and towns that comprise the regional vocational technical school district?*

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Abington, Cohasset, Hanover, Hanson, Norwell, Rockland, Scituate, Whitman

- B. *Have you engaged in discussions with all cities and towns that are members of your regional vocational technical school district regarding your consideration of the program(s) indicated above in relation to an MSBA funding application?*

No

- Yes, and I'm attaching additional documentation of these discussions. A letter was sent to area superintendents and our admissions staff consulted with guidance counselors from our sending towns' middle schools for more feedback on student interest in new programs.**

3. For Districts located within Bristol, Essex or Norfolk Counties:

NOTE: DESE requires that applicants consult, and provide evidence of consultation, when the Chapter 74 program(s) under consideration duplicates one already offered at Bristol County Agricultural High School, Essex North Shore Agricultural and Technical High School, or Norfolk County Agricultural High School in the same county. Consultation between school districts considering creation of Chapter 74 programs and the county agricultural school districts is intended to encourage cooperation in the provision of agricultural programming, the coordination of efforts, and strategic alignment with regional workforce needs.

- A. *Is your school district located within Bristol, Essex or Norfolk County?* **No**

Yes, our school district is located within Bristol County.

Yes, our school district is located within Essex County.

Yes, our school district is located within Norfolk County.

- B. *Are any program(s) you are proposing identical to a Chapter 74 program currently being offered at your Agricultural High School?*

- No. We are in Plymouth County

Yes

- C. *Have you engaged in discussions with your Agricultural High School regarding your consideration of the program(s) indicated above in relation to an MSBA funding application?*

- No, we have not discussed our consideration of the program(s) indicated above with our Agricultural High School.

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Yes, we have discussed our consideration of the program(s) indicated above with our Agricultural High School, and I'm attaching additional documentation of these discussions

4. For all applicants: Duplicating Programs Offered at High Schools in Close Proximity

NOTE: DESE requires that applicants consult, and provide evidence of consultation, when the Chapter 74 program(s) under consideration duplicates one already offered in another school district at a school in close proximity. Consultation between school districts considering creation of Chapter 74 programs and school districts offering the identical program at a school in close proximity is intended to encourage cooperation in the provision of technical programming, the coordination of efforts, and strategic alignment with regional workforce needs. DESE suggests the following geographical boundaries to assist districts in determining "close proximity" as follows:

- For school districts in areas east of Route 495, any Chapter 74 programs within 5 miles of the proposed Chapter 74 program(s)
- For school districts west of 495, to the east border of Berkshire County, any Chapter 74 programs within 10 miles of the proposed Chapter 74 program(s)
- For school districts in Berkshire County, any Chapter 74 programs within 20 miles of the proposed Chapter 74 program(s)

A. *Are any of the programs you are proposing identical to a Chapter 74 program currently being offered in another school district in a school in close proximity?*

No

Yes

B. *What are the names of the school districts currently offering identical Chapter 74 programs at a school in close proximity?* N/A

C. *Have you engaged in discussions with the school district(s) with schools in close proximity offering the same program regarding your consideration of the program indicated above in relation to an MSBA funding application?*

No, we have not engaged in discussion with the school district(s) indicated above. **There are no schools in close proximity.**

Yes, and I'm attaching additional documentation of these discussions



Thomas J. Hickey, Ed.D.

Superintendent-Director

thickey@ssvotech.org

p 781.878.8822

f 781.982.0281

South Shore Regional School District

476 Webster Street

Hanover, MA 02339

www.southshore.tech

April 5, 2022

Mr. Peter Schafer
Superintendent of Schools
Abington Public Schools
1071 Washington Street
Abington, MA 02351

Dear Peter,

I hope you are doing well. I am writing to share some good news with you about the future of South Shore Tech. In March 2022, we were invited by the Massachusetts School Building Authority to join their Core Program for school construction and renovation. To say we are excited is an understatement. This process will take several years, but we have waited a long time for this opportunity!

One of the early homework assignments we were given is to identify potential student interest in new Chapter 74 programs. MSBA has asked that, along with our own internal analysis, we engage with our sending districts to ask for feedback. I wanted to let you know that there would be some outreach, most likely in the form of our guidance staff talking with your counselors at the middle/high school level to get a sense of student interest. MSBA is not asking for anything formal in terms of surveys, etc.

If you have any other questions, please don't hesitate to reach out. Thanks in advance for your support!

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Hickey, Ed.D.
Superintendent-Director



Thomas J. Hickey, Ed.D.

Superintendent-Director
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South Shore Regional School District

476 Webster Street
Hanover, MA 02339
www.southshore.tech

April 5, 2022

[Via email to csauvigno@massasoit.mass.edu](mailto:csauvigno@massasoit.mass.edu)

Carine Sauvignon
Executive Dean, Canton Campus
Massasoit Community College

Dear Carine,

I am writing to share some good news about the future of South Shore Tech. In March 2022, we were invited into the Massachusetts School Building Authority's Core Program for school construction and renovation. To say we are excited is an understatement. This process will take several years, but we have waited a long time for this opportunity!

One of our early homework assignments is to analyze our Chapter 74 programs and identify (1) existing programs to reduce or expand, and (2) any potential new programs.

There are no guarantees that suggested new programs will be supported; however, the process should yield some solid nominees if the eventual school program of study includes new programming.

We were asked by MSBA to consult with our MassHire boards and post-secondary partners.

To consider the addition of future programs, we have taken several research steps:

- Analyzed the 2018 Southeast Regional Blueprint
- Analyzed 2018-2028 growth and replacement projections in our two MassHire regions.
- Reviewed the programs of other educational providers (local community colleges such as Massasoit Community College and Quincy College) as well as offerings from other vocational technical high schools in the Southeast Region.
- Surveyed our own students about potential interest in new programs.
- Reviewed our existing programs, student interest and enrollment trends.

In the near future, we will reach out further to students and educators in our immediate area:

- Surveying our incoming 9th grade students about interest in new programs.
- Asking our sending school districts (e.g. middle/high school counselors) about potential new Chapter 74 program interest.

The chart below summarizes our initial findings about the viability of potential new Chapter 74 programs.¹

New Chapter 74 programs that align with the Southeast Regional Blueprint	Top 5 Chapter 74 programs showing the strongest student interest (SST survey Mar/Apr 2022)
Dental Assisting (Health Care)	Animal Science
Business Technology (Finance & Insurance)	Plumbing
Medical Assisting (Health Care)	Early Education & Care
Programming & Web Development (Professional/Technical)	Biotechnology
Plumbing (Construction)	Business Technology
Biotechnology (Manufacturing)	
Hospitality (Food Services/Accommodations)	

We are asking post-secondary providers in our region to share thoughts on what we have found.

- **Are you seeing similar student interest in these programs?**
- **Are there other program areas which we should consider that might be logical feeders to a post-secondary pathway?**

Your response will be greatly appreciated as we will need to share this information with MSBA as part of our application.

If you have any further questions, please let me know. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,



Thomas J. Hickey, Ed.D.
Superintendent-Director

¹ Currently South Shore Tech has the following programs: Carpentry, Manufacturing Engineering Technology, Metal Fabrication/Welding, HVAC-R, Automotive, Allied Health, Horticulture Landscape Construction, Culinary Arts, Cosmetology, Electrical, Design Visual Communications, Computer Information Technology.



Thomas J. Hickey, Ed.D.

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South Shore Regional School District

476 Webster Street
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www.southshore.tech

April 5, 2022

[Via email to MCassidy@quincycollege.edu](mailto:MCassidy@quincycollege.edu)

Meghan Cassidy
Associate VP for Student Success and Partnerships
Quincy College

Dear Meghan,

I am writing to share some good news about the future of South Shore Tech. In March 2022, we were invited into the Massachusetts School Building Authority's Core Program for school construction and renovation. To say we are excited is an understatement. This process will take several years, but we have waited a long time for this opportunity!

One of our early homework assignments is to analyze our Chapter 74 programs and identify (1) existing programs to reduce or expand, and (2) any potential new programs.

There are no guarantees that suggested new programs will be supported; however, the process should yield some solid nominees if the eventual school program of study includes new programming.

We were asked by MSBA to consult with our MassHire boards and post-secondary partners.

To consider the addition of future programs, we have taken several research steps:

- Analyzed the 2018 Southeast Regional Blueprint
- Analyzed 2018-2028 growth and replacement projections in our two MassHire regions.
- Reviewed the programs of other educational providers (local community colleges such as Massasoit Community College and Quincy College) as well as offerings from other vocational technical high schools in the Southeast Region.
- Surveyed our own students about potential interest in new programs.
- Reviewed our existing programs, student interest and enrollment trends.

In the near future, we will reach out further to students and educators in our immediate area:

- Surveying our incoming 9th grade students about interest in new programs.
- Asking our sending school districts (e.g. middle/high school counselors) about potential new Chapter 74 program interest.

The chart below summarizes our initial findings about the viability of potential new Chapter 74 programs.¹

New Chapter 74 programs that align with the Southeast Regional Blueprint	Top 5 Chapter 74 programs showing the strongest student interest (SST survey Mar/Apr 2022)
Dental Assisting (Health Care)	Animal Science
Business Technology (Finance & Insurance)	Plumbing
Medical Assisting (Health Care)	Early Education & Care
Programming & Web Development (Professional/Technical)	Biotechnology
Plumbing (Construction)	Business Technology
Biotechnology (Manufacturing)	
Hospitality (Food Services/Accommodations)	

We are asking post-secondary providers in our region to share thoughts on what we have found.

- **Are you seeing similar student interest in these programs?**
- **Are there other program areas which we should consider that might be logical feeders to a post-secondary pathway?**

Your response will be greatly appreciated as we will need to share this information with MSBA as part of our application.

If you have any further questions, please let me know. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,



Thomas J. Hickey, Ed.D.
Superintendent-Director

¹ Currently South Shore Tech has the following programs: Carpentry, Manufacturing Engineering Technology, Metal Fabrication/Welding, HVAC-R, Automotive, Allied Health, Horticulture Landscape Construction, Culinary Arts, Cosmetology, Electrical, Design Visual Communications, Computer Information Technology.



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April 5, 2022

Letter to MassHire boards

Dear:

I am writing to share some good news about the future of South Shore Tech. In March 2022, we were invited into the Massachusetts School Building Authority's Core Program for school construction and renovation. To say we are excited is an understatement. This process will take several years, but we have waited a long time for this opportunity!

One of our early homework assignments is to analyze our Chapter 74 programs and identify (1) existing programs to reduce or expand, and (2) any potential new programs.

There are no guarantees that suggested new programs will be supported; however, the process should yield some solid nominees if the eventual school program of study includes new programming.

We were asked by MSBA to consult with our MassHire boards and post-secondary partners. Fortunately, we are hardly strangers and have enjoyed close working relationships for several years.

To consider the addition of future programs, we have taken several research steps:

- Analyzed the 2018 Southeast Regional Blueprint.
- Analyzed 2018-2028 growth and replacement projections in our two MassHire regions.
- Reviewed the programs of other educational providers (local community colleges such as Massasoit Community College and Quincy College) as well as offerings from other vocational technical high schools in the Southeast Region.
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In the near future, we will reach out further to students and educators in our immediate area:

- Surveying our incoming 9th grade students about interest in new programs.
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Biotechnology (Manufacturing)	
Hospitality (Food Services/Accommodations)	

Based on review of the data thus far:

1. Another Health Care program, such as **Dental Assisting** or **Medical Assisting** would be viable. We believe a Dental Assisting program would draw new students to the school who might otherwise not choose Allied Health. We also see strong post-secondary potential for this expansion.
2. **Plumbing** is currently an unofficial component of our HVAC-R program and the data suggest that a separate program with dedicated space would expand our construction industry offerings without drawing a substantial student population away from HVAC-R.
3. **Hospitality** does not draw enough student interest to warrant a separate program.
4. **Business Technology** was the 5th most popular program according to student survey data, but the state’s curriculum framework does not align directly with the Finance and Insurance industry. This would require further review.
5. The survey showed that **Early Childhood & Care, Biotechnology** and **Animal Science** were popular and drew interest from a wide range of students. This suggests that these programs would also be of interest to students who are currently on waiting lists and future students.
6. **Programming & Web Development** is a regional priority and labor market projections are strong. There is modest student interest in this program, possibly because we have a Networking program in place. Of the current students who expressed the strongest interest in this program

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April 5, 2022

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pathway, about one third were from the Networking program. So this suggests that an expansion of our existing Networking program with specialized personnel in Programming and Web Development should be considered (versus a formal stand-alone program).

If you have read this far, I thank you for your endurance!

What we are asking of you as our workforce partners is simply to tell us your thoughts on what we have shared with you. Are there other occupations we should be considering? Is there other data that supports/contradicts what we are finding?

Your response will be greatly appreciated as we will need to share this information with MSBA as part of our application.

If you have any further questions, please let me know. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas J. Hickey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'T' and 'H'.

Thomas J. Hickey, Ed.D.
Superintendent-Director