Tahanto Regional Middle High School

Career and Technical Education (CTE) Middle School Pathways Awareness Policy
Effective Date: September 2025
Reviewed by: BBRSD Administration & School Committee
Aligned with: MA DESE CCTE Regulations (Revised May 2025)

I. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that all students in grades 6–8 at Tahanto Regional Middle High School are provided equitable access to information, exploration, and engagement with Career and Technical Education (CTE) opportunities available through our partnership with **Assabet Valley Regional Technical High School (AVRTHS)** and other Chapter 74-approved programs.

This policy satisfies the **Middle School Pathways Awareness Requirement** set forth in the revised **603 CMR 4.00: Vocational Technical Education Regulations** (effective SY 2025–2026), and affirms our district's commitment to helping students and families make informed decisions about high school course selection, CTE participation, and future college and career planning.

II. Goals

Tahanto Regional Middle High School will:

1. **Inform** all middle school students and families about available Chapter 74 CTE programs and pathways.

2. **Engage** students in age-appropriate career awareness, exploration, and exposure opportunities prior to high school.

3. **Collaborate** with Assabet Valley Regional Technical High School and the Berlin-Boylston Regional School District (BBRSD) to align communication, scheduling, and access to CTE opportunities.

4. **Document and attest** compliance with DESE requirements through an annual attestation process.

III. Implementation

A. Communication & Awareness

- Provide families with written information about CTE programs, admissions processes, and timelines through:
    - School newsletters (e.g., *Stags Weekly*).
    - School website postings.
    - Parent information nights or webinars.

B. Career Exploration Activities

- Coordinate at least **one CTE awareness activity annually** for grades 7–8, which may include:
    - Classroom lessons on career clusters and vocational pathways.
    - Guest speakers from CTE programs or industry partners.
    - Interactive career interest inventories.

C. Assabet Valley Regional Technical High School Partnership

- Participate in the annual **Assabet Valley School Tour Program**:
    - Grade 8 students will be invited to tour AVRTHS facilities in Fall 2025 (scheduled through AVRTHS Admissions/PR Coordinator).
    - Provide chaperones and transportation coordination to ensure equitable participation.

- Collaborate with AVRTHS to share admissions information regarding the **lottery-based admissions process** and any minimum eligibility criteria.

D. Counseling & Individual Support

- School counselors will provide individual or small-group meetings for interested students and their families to:
    - Explain CTE pathways.
    - Review application timelines and eligibility requirements.
    - Support students with application completion and transition planning.
- School Counselors will work with all students during classroom lessons focused on career and pathway planning. Lessons will include the exploration and awareness of secondary school options including career technical education schools and programs as connected to a student's secondary and postsecondary academic and career planning.

IV. Accountability & Attestation

- The Principal will be responsible for ensuring implementation and maintaining documentation of:
    - Activities conducted.
    - Student/family participation.
    - Annual review of CTE communication materials.
- An **Annual Attestation** will be submitted to the MA DESE Office of College, Career, and Technical Education (CCTE) verifying compliance with this policy.

V. Review & Continuous Improvement

- This policy will be reviewed annually by the Principal, Director of Curriculum, and School Committee to ensure alignment with DESE regulations, student needs, and partnership

agreements with AVRTHS.

- Feedback from students, families, and staff will be gathered to improve programming and access.