Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
Massachusetts School Building Authority
Chapter 74 Vocational Technical Education Viability Documentation

Date: September 24, 2025

School District (the "District"): Whittier Regional Vocational Technical High School

Superintendent: Maureen Lynch

Author(s) of the Chapter 74 Viability Form (Name, Title): Paul Moskevitz, Vocational Coordinator and Amanda Crosby, Vocational Coordinator

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 the MSBA Project Coordinator.

NOTE: The information provided by MSBA applicants does not eliminate the requirement to engage 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.

A. 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.

Chapter 74 Program Offerings	2024-2025 Enrollment	Proposed Capacity /Applicable School Year	Comment*
Exploratory Program	336	375	Existing
Advanced Manufacturing	22	30	Existing
Automotive Collision Repair	18	30	Existing
Automotive Technology	43	35	Existing
Business Technology	7	15	Existing
Carpentry	77	75	Existing
Criminal Justice/Public Safety	0	15	New
Cosmetology	37	55	Existing
Culinary Arts	56	70	Existing
Dental Assisting	47	55	Existing
Design & Visual Communications	30	0	Existing – closing 26-27
Drafting	46	55	Existing
Early Education & Care	9	0	Existing – closing 25-26
Electricity	101	110	Existing
Electronics Engineering Technology	41	25	Existing
Engineering Technology	26	30	Existing
Environmental Science/Sustainability	0	15	New
Facility Maintenance Management	0	15	New
Health Assisting	40	55	Existing
HVAC-R	72	80	Existing
Hospitality Management	5	10	Existing
Information Support Services & Networking	0	15	Yes
Marine Service Technology	19	30	Existing
Marketing	38	45	Existing
Masonry & Tile Setting	38	40	Existing
Medical Assisting	57	55	Existing
Metal Fabrication and Joining	46	55	Existing
Plumbing	73	70	Existing
Robotics & Automation Engineering Technology	0	25	New
Veterinary Science	0	15	New
Total	1284	1500	

** 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.*

2. **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.

   NEED TO ADD AFTER MEETING

B. If Expanding the Size of Existing Chapter 74 Programs

1. **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.

   District: Whittier Regional Vocational Technical High School
   Expanded: Demand and capacity for the Electronics Engineering Technology will be expanded with the addition of Robotics & Automation Engineering Technology.
   It is anticipated the existing 21 Chapter 74 pathways will all see a slight increase of 5-10 students with the proposed enrollment increase of approximately 215

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.

   Data from the waitlist over the past five years shows a significant increase in demand for Chapter 74 programs across our 11 sending communities. On average, 326 students have been on the waitlist annually, with 70% of these students coming from Haverhill. Notably, Haverhill is the only community experiencing growth in its school-aged population.

   While the proposed enrollment increase of approximately 215 students will not eliminate the waitlist, it will substantially reduce it. This approach also remains fiscally responsible for the 10 other sending communities that have stable or declining school-aged populations.

C. 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.

   District: Whittier Regional Vocational Technical High School
   New Programs: Criminal Justice/Public Safety, Environmental Science/Sustainability, Facility Maintenance Management, Information Support Services & Networking and Veterinary Science

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 vocation 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.

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.
X 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.

A.

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.

   Not applicable, our selected programs align with the regional blueprint for our area

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.

   Data from the waitlist over the past five years reveals a significant increase in demand for Chapter 74 programs across our 11 sending communities. On average, 326 students have been on the waitlist annually, with 70% of these students coming from Haverhill. Beyond the waitlist for enrollment, existing Chapter 74 pathways have experienced substantial growth in demand, resulting in certain programs moving to waitlist status when student interest exceeds capacity.

   The Chapter 74 pathways currently experiencing demand that surpasses capacity include Carpentry, Electricity, Health Assisting, HVAC-R, Medical Assisting, and Plumbing. Additionally, a review of ten-year enrollment trends shows steady growth in student interest and participation in Drafting, Electronics Engineering Technology, and Engineering Technology. In response to this increased overall enrollment, the proposed addition of new Chapter 74 pathway of Criminal Justice/Public Safety, Environmental Science/Sustainability, Facility Maintenance Management, Information Support Services & Networking, Robotics & Automation Engineering Technology, and Veterinary Science will offer students expanded opportunities. These new pathways aim to provide outcomes comparable to those in programs currently at or near enrollment capacity.

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.

One of the proposed options for the Whittier Regional Vocational Technical High School MSBA project is to relocate the school to the Northern Essex Community College campus. Whittier's Superintendent, Maureen Lynch, and Northern Essex Community College President, Lane Glenn, have collaborated to identify Chapter 74 programs that would best serve the region's workforce needs. These programs were specifically selected due to their strong employment demand within the region.

The proposed pathways aim to provide graduating seniors with opportunities to enter the workforce in entry-level positions or to pursue post-secondary education at local institutions such as Northern Essex Community College. On August 13, 2025, these proposed pathways were presented to the Whittier Tech/NECC Municipal Working Group, which consists of Town Managers, Town Administrators, and Mayors representing the 11 member communities of the Whittier Tech District.

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.

   In addition to utilizing the data from the Northeast Massachusetts Regional Labor Force Blueprint and collaborating with Northern Essex Community College, Whittier used data from other Massachusetts Career Vocational Technical schools to consider additional Chapter 74 pathways.

D. 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?

X No

Yes

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?*

X No

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

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?*

Amesbury, Georgetown, Groveland, Haverhill, Ipswich, Merrimac, Newbury, Newburyport, Rowley, Salisbury, West Newbury

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

X Yes, and I'm attaching additional documentation of these discussions https://whittierregionalvocationaltdma.sites.thrillshare.com/o/bfw/page/municipal-working-group See August 13, 2025

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?*

Yes, our school district is located within Bristol County.

X 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?

X No
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?

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

X 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?*

X No, we have not engaged in discussion with the school district(s) indicated above.
Yes, and I'm attaching additional documentation of these discussions