

The State Vocational Federation of Teachers, Local 4200A, is surveying Connecticut residents about House Bill 6385:

When asked, “Do you think the Vo-Tech schools should stay as one system (and not be given to the local towns)?” 96% voted yes.

The breakdown of voters was:

85	16%	I am a student
77	15%	I am a parent
195	37%	I am a teacher
19	4%	I am a school support worker
8	2%	I am a TTAC member
13	2%	I am a local business owner
125	24%	I am a concerned citizen

Here are some of their comments:

“I think that the Governor's plan is the worst thing that could happen to the vo-tech system. I am a graduate of Oliver Wolcott and have gone on to a career as an electrician. If this bill passed there would be huge shock to the building trades in Connecticut.”

“Towns & cities can barely manage support what public schools they now have. Adding to that would certainly close schools due to lack of funding. We need tech schools to provide skilled young workers who not only are vital to the business community, but to the entire State's economic health.”

“100 years of successful, unique and innovative educational practices should say it all. As a CTHSS graduate turned CTHSS instructor I am shocked and saddened by the recent proposal to dismantle the technical high school system. Technical high school education is different on so many levels from the traditional secondary school experience. It is these distinct differences that set us apart and make our system approach an absolute necessity.”

“As a student currently attending Norwich Technical High School, I believe it is vitally important that the Vo-Tech system stays together and isn't broken up. I speak from personal experience when I say that tech schools give a very important service to students, and I can honestly say that because of my school, I am much better prepared for the world outside school, and I probably wouldn't be here if it weren't for tech. Norwich Technical High School has literally saved my future, and my life.”

The people who know our system – students, parents, graduates, and employers – understand that vocational-technical education is best delivered by the CTHSS. Turning the schools over to local school boards will ultimately see the programs we have built devolve into simple industrial arts programs. Connecticut businesses need more; they need the skilled, educated workforce our system produces. Please defeat section 16 of HB 6385.