



Jeffrey C. Riley  
Commissioner

# Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

75 Pleasant Street, Malden, Massachusetts 02148-4906

Telephone: (781) 338-3000  
TTY: N.E.T. Relay 1-800-439-2370

Via Electronic Mail: [mwatson@gnbvt.edu](mailto:mwatson@gnbvt.edu)

December 7, 2022

Dear Superintendent-Director Watson:

I write to notify you that, consistent with my letter of September 26, 2022 (attached), the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (Department) has reviewed Greater New Bedford Vocational Technical School's enrollment data for the 2022-2023 ninth grade class submitted in the October 1, 2022, Student Information Management System (SIMS) data collection. Because your school's data for 2022-2023's ninth grade class reflects a possible disproportionate exclusion of protected student populations, the Department is requiring your district to submit evidence, no later than **noon on Wednesday, December 21, 2022**, showing: (1) that there is no disproportionate exclusion in comparison to the school's member communities or that the selective criteria did not have the effect of causing such a disproportionality; (2) the process you used to validate your selective criteria as essential to participation in your career and technical education programs; and (3) an explanation to support your determination that alternative, equally valid criteria that do not disproportionately exclude these student populations were unavailable to you.

After reviewing your submission, the Department may choose to intervene—consistent with the vocational-technical education regulations at 603 CMR 4.03(6)(a)(4)—and may require you to revise your admissions policy, effective for the current application cycle for students entering in fall 2023. I am requesting a prompt response to this letter so that the Department can make this determination as quickly as possible, and the school can promptly communicate any admissions policy changes to prospective students and families.

If you anticipate making changes to your admissions policy before December 21, 2022, that address the identified concerns, please notify the Department as soon as possible so that we can take these proposed changes into consideration before taking further action. Deputy Commissioner Regina Robinson, Senior Associate Commissioner Cliff Chuang, Associate Commissioner Elizabeth Bennett, and members of their team remain available to provide support. Please contact Elizabeth Bennett at [Elizabeth.L.Bennett@mass.gov](mailto:Elizabeth.L.Bennett@mass.gov) if you would like to set up a meeting. Thank you for your partnership in this important effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey C. Riley".

Jeffrey C. Riley  
Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education

Attachment A: September 26, 2022 Letter to District