

Franklin County Tech Member Towns



ADMINISTRATION

Rick Martin
Liz Bouchard
Brian Spadafino
Ben Niles
John Palumbo
Margaret Nugent
Amber Crochier
Joe Gamache

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Brad Stafford
Adam Griffin
Tammie Powers
John Pelletier
Bob Decker
Jacquie Boyden
Sandy Brown
Paul Doran
Barb Yetter
George VandeLinder
Matthew Duley
Arthur Schwenger
Gerald Levine
Richard Kuklewicz
Christopher Bonnett
Bryan Camden
Laura Earl
Tim Currier
Amber Robidoux
Robert Miller
James Bernotas
Todd Weed
Jeffrey Budine
Amy Lavallee

ROLES

Superintendent-Director
Business Manager
Principal
Asst. Principal
PPS/Guidance Director
CTE Director
Asst. Principal/ Curriculum Coordinator
Dean of Students

COMMUNITY

Bernardston
Buckland
Colrain
Conway
Deerfield
Erving
Gill
Greenfield
Greenfield
Greenfield
Greenfield
Heath
Leyden
Montague
Montague
New Salem
Northfield
Orange
Orange
Shelburne
Sunderland
Warwick
Wendell
Whately

FCTS Mission Statement

It is the mission of Franklin County Technical School to prepare all students to achieve a future of successful careers, technical and intellectual curiosity, healthy life choices and strength of character

FY27 Annual Report to Towns

We submit this annual report for the 2025-26 school year on behalf of the Franklin County Technical School District and its administration, faculty, staff and students. The enrollment numbers presented below are from the Statewide October 1, 2025, enrollment count, the State's annual "official" count. As of October 2025, the Franklin County Technical School (FCTS) has an enrollment of 579 students with member town breakouts as follows:

Town	Students	Town	Students	Town	Students	Town	Students
Bernardston	23	Erving	20	Montague	88	Sunderland	9
Buckland	23	Gill	14	New Salem	10	Warwick	4
Colrain	28	Greenfield	129	Northfield	58	Wendell	7
Conway	4	Heath	19	Orange	78	Whately	13
Deerfield	29	Leyden	12	Shelburne	11		

The Franklin County Technical School awarded 152 diplomas to our seniors in June of 2025. The state has adjusted its measures for evaluating district/school accountability, and FCTS maintained the equivalent of a Level 2 accountability status out of a 5- point scale, with 1 being the highest and 5 the lowest. Additionally, the district is meeting targets set by the Department of Education for passing rates of students of high risk with disabilities.

FCTS has the advantage of utilizing vocational students and licensed instructors from carpentry, electrical, plumbing, landscaping, and advanced precision machining to provide maintenance and repairs to our school grounds and facility, saving member towns tens of thousands of dollars annually. These shop programs also saved member towns an estimated \$100,000 in capital improvement projects. Trades Women of Tomorrow is a new state initiative over the last several years, providing female students at FCTS, with information and opportunity to experience successfully women business owners working in various non-traditional trade areas.

Franklin County Technical School students are learning the value of paid work opportunities through a newly revamped Cooperative Education Program (Coop). FCTS has averaged more than 110 students placed on paid Coop jobs, which are directly correlated to their vocational field of study. FCTS has the strongest Coop placement % in the state of Massachusetts. FCTS also offers excellent academic offerings with increased course offerings in advanced placement, honors, foreign language, credit recovery, and special education to provide all students with the opportunity to be prepared for college and career readiness.

Franklin County Technical School continues to experience popularity within Franklin County, which has translated to new vocational-technical programs in the fields of Veterinary Animal Science, Medical Assisting, and a new Aviation Maintenance Technician (AMT) program. These new vibrant programs are the first new vocational programs at FCTS in more than 40 years, bringing the total number of Chapter 74 vocational-technical programs to 15. FCTS students follow a strict Chapter 74 guided program where students are immersed in their trade for 6.5 hours a day, develop industry-recognized credentials, and are often placed in paid employment through COOP. This robust schedule allows students to meet industry competency guidelines.

The new Aviation program has started for the 2024-25 school year. This program will provide students with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) credentials in Aviation Maintenance Technology (AMT), upon program approval, which is anticipated for January 2026. FCTS was fortunate to receive a 4.2-million-dollar competitive grant to build a new 12,000-square-foot aviation hangar and 1.4 million dollars of certified FAA equipment, aircraft, and training modules. This grant should cover the entire cost of the facility with no additional financial help needed from our member towns. The FCTS hangar will be located on the adjacent Turners Falls Municipal Airport grounds. The AMT program includes a twin-engine airplane, two single-engine airplanes, one glider, and one helicopter, as well as machines, equipment, engine simulators, and tools required by the FAA for an AMT certification program. FCTS will become one of the few high schools in the country to offer a credentialed FAA program. Students starting the program in the fall of 2026, will have the opportunity to obtain 1200 hours of FAA training, allowing them to sit for an FAA license exam. FAA certification will provide our students on their way to a career in aviation.

FCTS is nearly 50 years old and has experienced electrical switch gear issues, roof leaks, plumbing and drainage issues, underground piping and conduit related issues, elimination of auditorium to accommodate enrollment, and a host of additional facility concerns to provide adequate student space and learning needs. This has resulted in hundreds of thousands of dollars to maintain the FCTS facility annually, over the last several years. To resolve this, FCTS has been approved for a Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) funded project for a core building. FCTS has budgeted money over the last several years to fund a Feasibility Study without having to bond or charge our member towns with additional assessments. We have completed the eligibility and feasibility phases of the project and currently in the schematic design phase. The schematic design phase will be completed in the summer of 2026 and a district wide vote will occur in the fall of 2026 for all 19 member towns on the same day and hours.

Franklin County Technical School's technical programs continue to improve and evolve through competitive Skills Capital Grants. FCTS has received more than 6.5 million dollars in competitive grants over the last 8 years and a total of 11.5 million since 2014. These funds have significantly enhanced our Welding, Medical Assisting, Veterinary Science, Machine Technology, and Aviation vocational-technical programs. FCTS also partners with the Franklin Hampshire Regional Employment Board and Greenfield Community College to offer evening programs for underemployed and displaced workers to obtain a certification in Advanced Precision Machining using the latest 21st-century technology in our CNC machines. Through these highly competitive skills grants, FCTS also received \$500,000 to build a mobile welding simulator lab to develop technical skills for FCTS students toward certification. FCTS has begun partnering with the Franklin County House of Corrections to utilize the new mobile welding simulator lab and provide competency training to inmates.

In addition, FCTS applied for and received a total of 4 million dollars in grants over the last several years to implement new adult evening training programs through the Commonwealth Corporation's Career Technical Initiative (CTI). Since 2022, FCTS initiated adult training courses in Welding, Auto Technology, Electrical, Landscaping & Horticulture, and Carpentry through the CTI grant. FCTS continues to explore more programs for evening courses in 2025. The CTI grants are helping FCTS to start its adult program offerings, such as electrical and hobby courses with plans to add more in the future. FCTS has hired a full-time adult evening school coordinator to accomplish these goals and meet industry and community needs.

FCTS vocational programs have supported the community in the following areas:

Franklin County Technical School remains committed to providing high-quality technical services to our member towns. These projects allow our students to gain real-world experience while delivering significant cost savings and essential services to the community.

Construction & Infrastructure Projects

- Petty Plain Road House Project (Greenfield): A multi-year collaboration between the Carpentry, Electrical, Plumbing, and Horticulture programs. Construction is ongoing, with an anticipated completion date of Spring 2026.
- Carpentry Municipal Support:
 - Conway: Framing for the Highway Garage.
 - Erving: Construction of dugouts at Zilinski Park.
 - Bernardston: Construction of dugout benches for Pratt Field.
 - Hatfield & Whately: Library support including bench repairs and a new suggestion box.
- Welding & Fabrication:
 - Montague: Repaired backhoe pins for the DPW and restored wrought iron fencing at the local cemetery.
 - Environmental Art: Fabricated 12 fish silhouettes and a custom bench for the First Light fish ladder.
- Advanced Manufacturing:
 - Produced custom fountain keys for the Town of Warwick.
 - Annual fabrication of "Cool Rides" car show trophies.
 - Ongoing campus maintenance, including the fabrication of soccer net brackets.

Electrical: The Electrical department has managed several large-scale municipal renovations and new constructions:

- Conway Emergency Services: Full electrical support for the remodel and addition of the Fire/EMS/Police garage, including power distribution and data cabling.
- Colrain Town Hall: Modular furniture data remodel, including Cat6 testing and device replacement.
- Heath Town Hall: Energy-efficient lighting retrofit, replacing fluorescent fixtures with LEDs.
- Municipal Facilities: Previous completion of data and fire alarm systems for the Conway DPW and the FCTS Campus.

Programming & Web Development

- Tech Tuesdays & Thursdays: A partnership with area senior centers (Gill-Montague, Erving, and Bernardston) where Programming & Web Development students provide drop-in technical support for laptops, phones, and digital literacy.
- Web Development: Students are currently finalizing a new website for the UCC of Conway (uccofconway.com), scheduled for launch by February 2026.

Agriculture & Environmental Stewardship

- Horticulture:
 - Participated in the Source to Sea River Cleanup in Turners Falls and Erving.
 - Provided seasonal cleanups for the Hill Cemetery in Shelburne and the Franklin County Fairgrounds.
- Animal Science:
 - Offers complimentary bathing and grooming services for local Working K9 units.
 - Student volunteers support operations at the Better Together Dog Rescue in Leverett.
 - Partners with the Franklin County Sheriff's Department to host a community rabies clinic.
 - Fundraising events by providing pet services on weekends.

Health and Human Services

- **Cosmetology:** Operates a public salon offering affordable services (haircuts, color, facials, and manicures). The department actively coordinates with local Councils on Aging to ensure seniors have access to these services.
- **Health & Medical Assisting:** Students visit the LifePath Community Engagement Center, providing essential support and companionship to clients living with dementia.

Culinary Arts: Provides catering and event support for the Franklin County Fair, Chamber of Commerce breakfasts, the Superintendent's Dinner, Catering service for the Cadet Graduation for the Franklin County Sheriff, and holiday meals for the Montague Housing Authority and the annual catering for Communities That Cares Coalition.

The Franklin County Technical School is forward-thinking as it continues to review labor demand and market analysis to add new programs to its offerings. The School Committee supports our students as they obtain competencies and training to make them competitive in the workplace or at college. Our partnerships with our communities are important for our programs, and we thank those who allow our students the opportunity to practice their trades out in the field.

Respectfully,



Mr. Richard J. Kuklewicz
School Committee Chairman



Mr. Richard J. Martin
Superintendent-Director