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Frank Edelblut
Commissioner

Christine Brennan
Deputy Commissioner

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
101 Pleasant Street
Concord, N.H. 03301
TEL. (603) 271-3495
FAX (603) 271-1953

July 31, 2019

His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu
and the Honorable Council
State House
Concord, NH 03301

REQUESTED ACTION

The New Hampshire Department of Education (NHDOE) respectfully requests an exemption to New Hampshire Plant and Property Management Rules, ADM 611:08(g) to enable NHDOE to increase its fleet by one vehicle. The new vehicle shall be assigned to the Division of Learner Support, Bureau of Career Development.

EXPLANATION

NHDOE maintains a fleet of one vehicle dedicated for use for Vocational Rehabilitation programs. This request is to approve purchasing a 35-foot recreation vehicle for the purpose of conversion into a mobile classroom with office space. The vehicle will be used to promote Career & Technical education across the state in order to better serve rural communities as well as provide increased access to students in middle school grades.

There are currently 27 regional career and technical high school centers in New Hampshire. The state offers 48 CTE programs ranging from accounting to biotechnology to construction to fire science to machining. Some centers offer as many as 19 different programs, while a few agricultural centers offer only 1 or 2 programs. Many of these centers can be described as "best kept secrets" – from not only the general public, but even from parents and students in the surrounding school districts. The Bureau of Career Development intends to utilize this vehicle to share the secret with as many people as possible.

In ongoing conversations with employers, they have expressed an interest in working more closely with schools and CTE programs, specifically. This vehicle will be able to be utilized as part of ongoing campaigns to bring employers to the school sites where they can promote opportunities, especially non-traditional ones (such as teaching and cosmetology for male

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students, and automotive and engineering for female students). By doing so, we hope to assist in increasing the percentage of high school graduates who remain in New Hampshire and aid in the continued growth of the state economy.

This customized vehicle will be utilized by the members of the Bureau of Career Development on a rotational basis across the state. School districts and individual schools will have the ability to request the vehicle for events such as career fairs, open houses, and community events.

By approving this request, NHDOE will be equipped to provide more equitable services to all of our school districts.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Brennan, Deputy Commissioner

FOR

Frank Edelblut
Commissioner of Education