




MAVA

Empowering Massachusetts' Future: Expanding Vocational Education

Massachusetts faces a critical challenge in vocational education. The demand has skyrocketed, but thousands of students are left without opportunities. It's time to bridge this gap and empower our future workforce.

 by Aaron Polansky, Old Colony Superintendent-Director
Prepared using Gamma

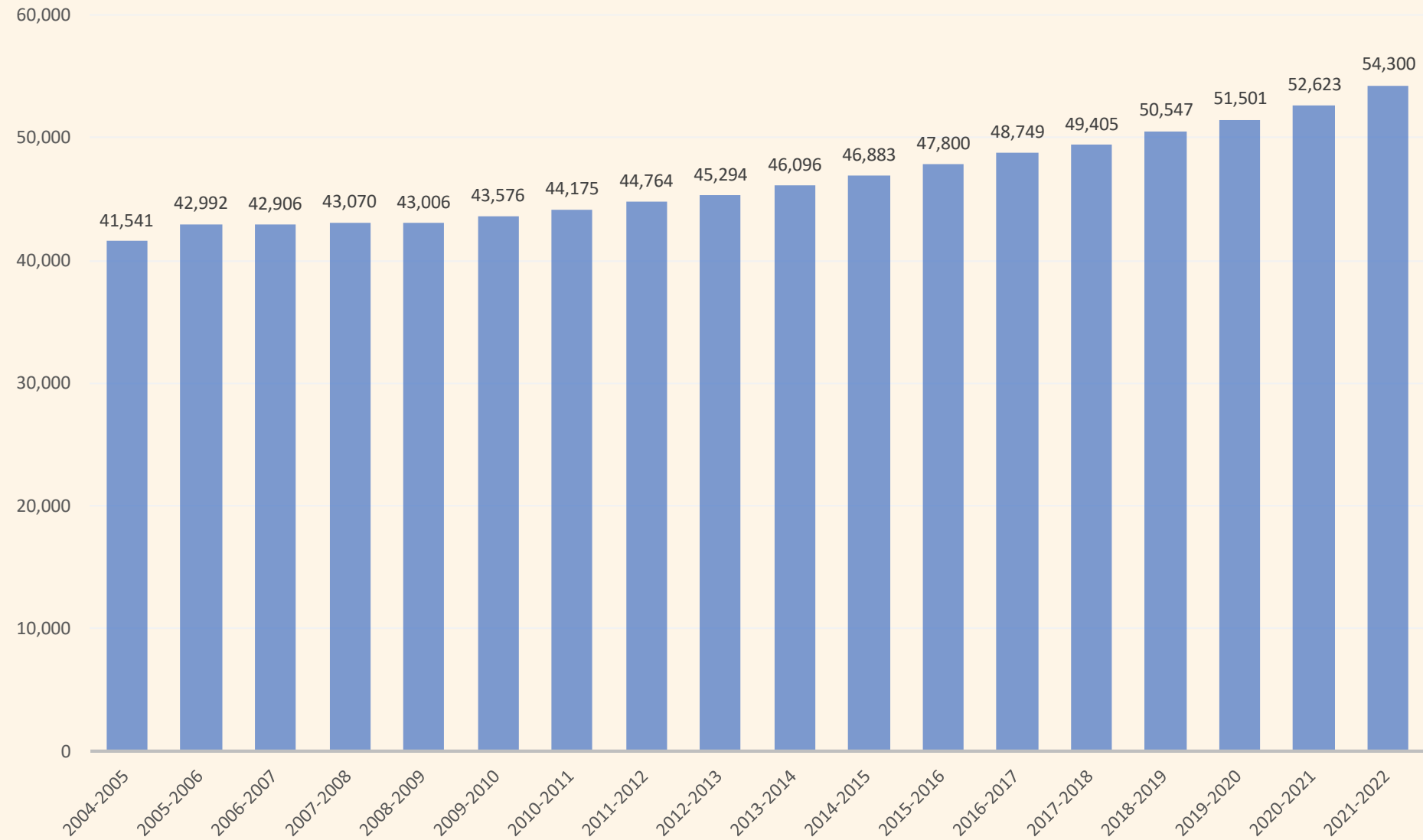


The Rising Demand for Vocational Education

- 1 Past**
Limited vocational options with stigma associated. Traditional academic paths favored.
- 2 Present**
Surging interest in vocational education. Schools overwhelmed with applications.
- 3 Future**
Expanded vocational programs. More students accessing technical skills.

The Rising Demand for Vocational Education

MA CVTE Enrollment Totals MGL Chapter. 74 Enrollment



(Source: Pioneer Institute, “What policies are needed for CTE to work?”)





Regional Impact: A Statewide Challenge



Greater Boston

High-tech industries driving demand for skilled workers.



Western Massachusetts

Manufacturing sectors seeking trained technicians.

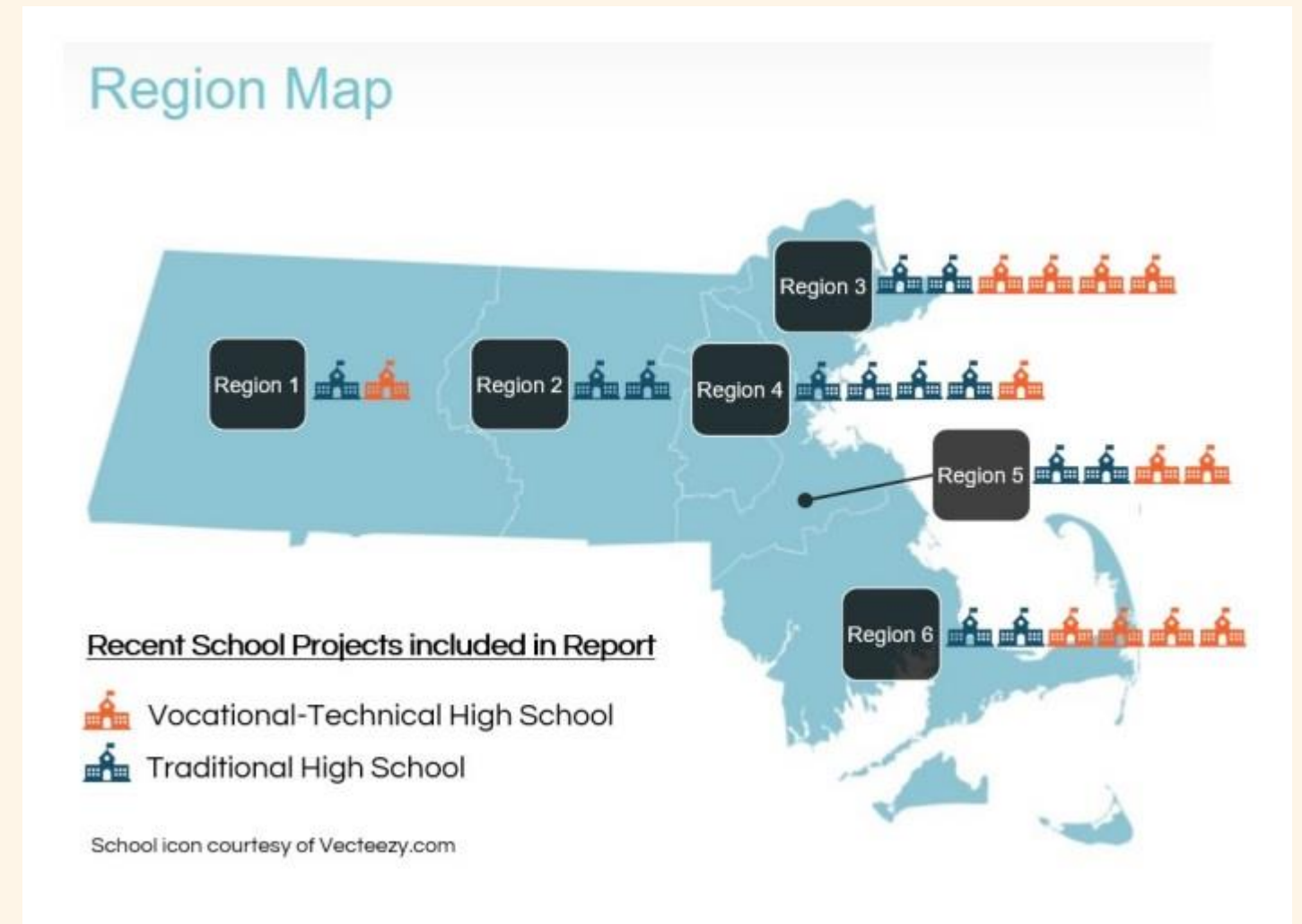


Southeast & Coastal Regions

Construction & maritime industries requiring specialized vocational skills.

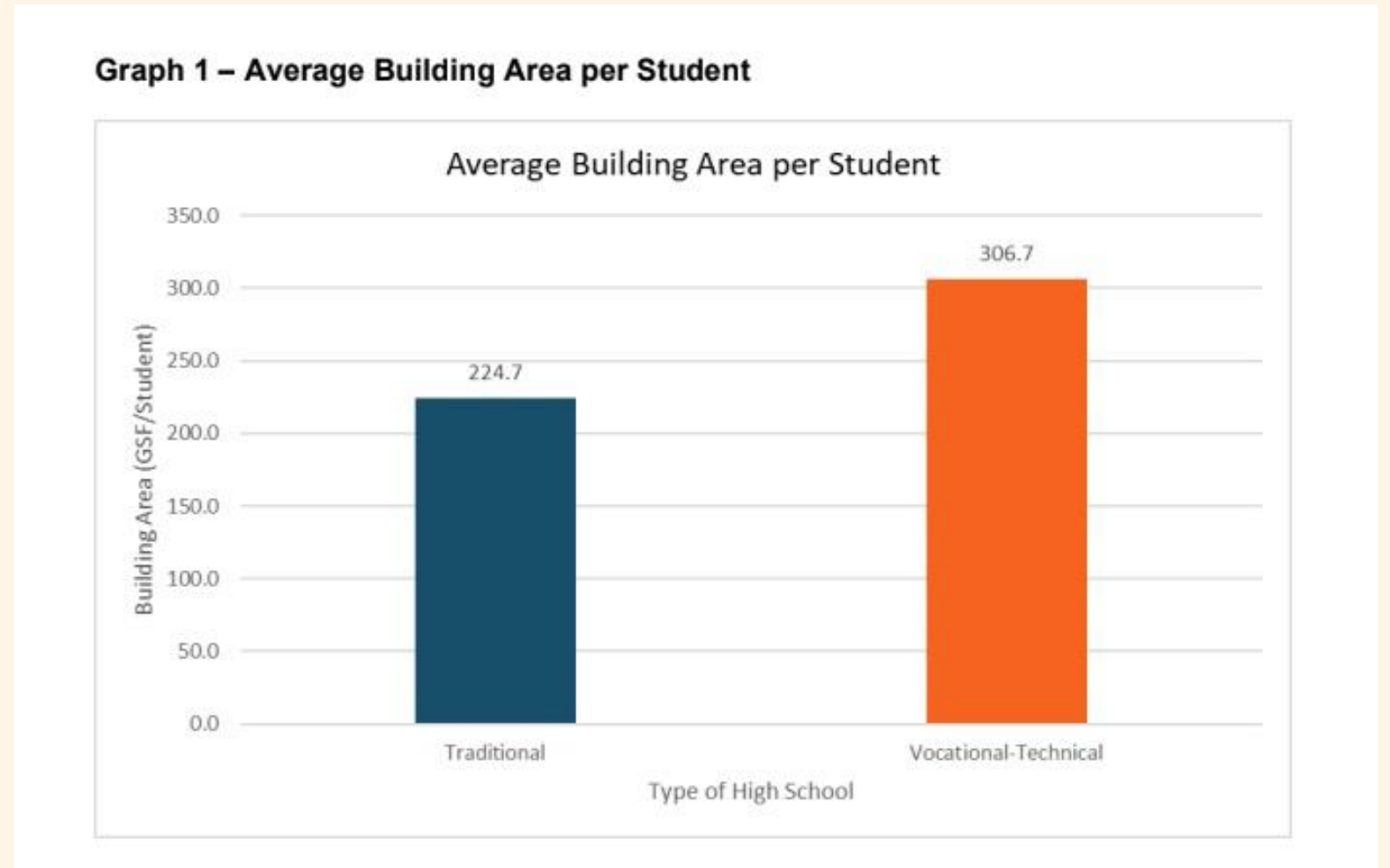
Regional Project Overview

The MSBA assigns each school district to one of six (6) geographic regions. This image from a report completed in 2023, illustrates that recent building projects for traditional high schools are present in each of the six (6) regions and recent building projects for vocational-technical high schools are present in five (5) of the regions.



Differentiating Between Traditional and Vocational Projects

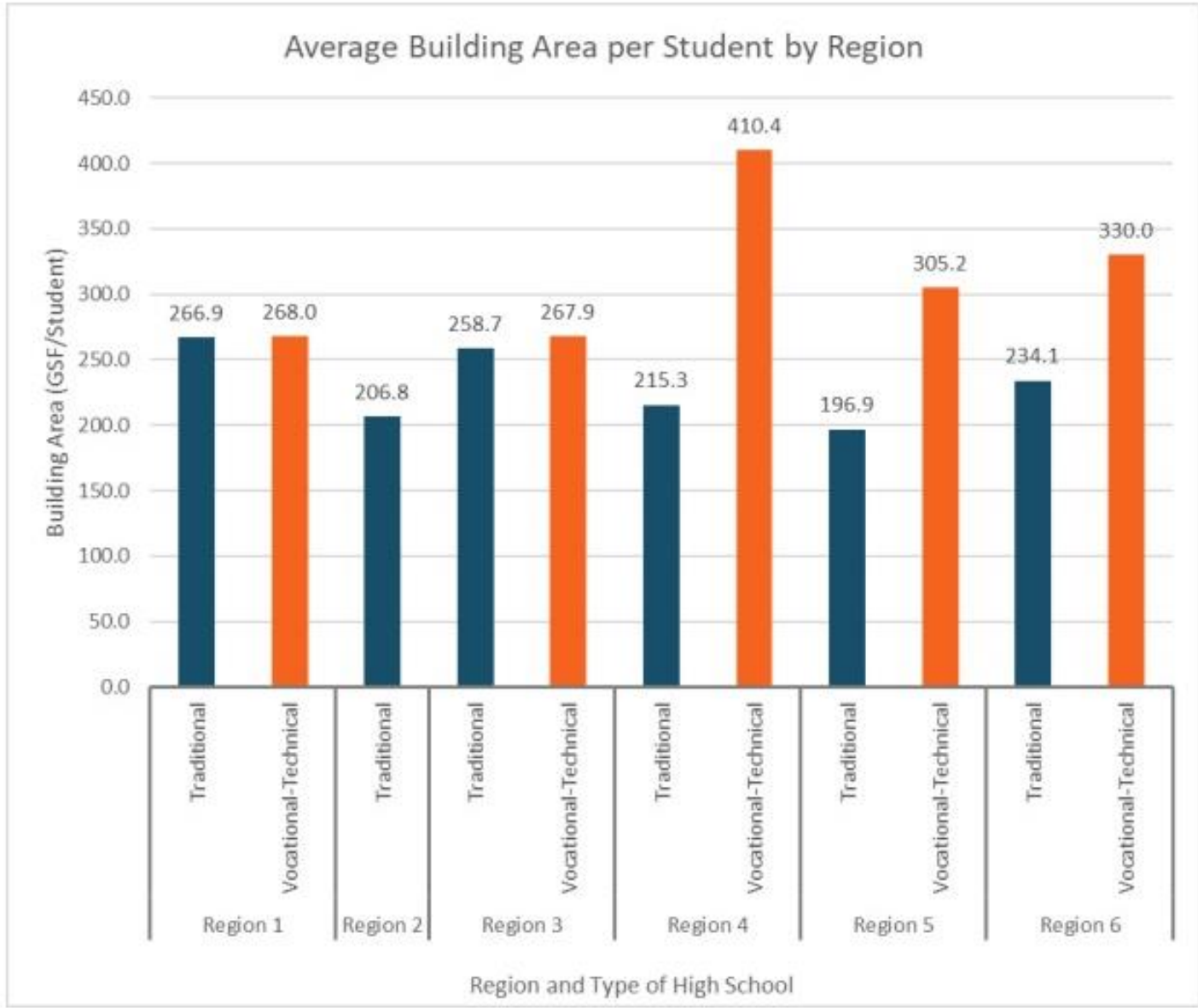
In recent projects, the average building area per student for vocational programs exceeded that of traditional projects by over 80 gross square feet per student. This is due in great part to the need for space to accommodate appropriate equipment for CH74 programming.



Source: *Comparison of the Costs of Vocational-Technical High Schools and Traditional High Schools in Massachusetts*
May 31, 2023 DRAFT

Differentiating Between Traditional and Vocational Projects

In all regions where recent building projects for both vocational-technical high schools and traditional high schools exist, the vocational-technical high schools have higher average building areas per student. This comparison further supports a request from MAVA for differentiation in reimbursement rates to alleviate the financial burden passed on to tax payers in member communities of our vocational-technical schools.

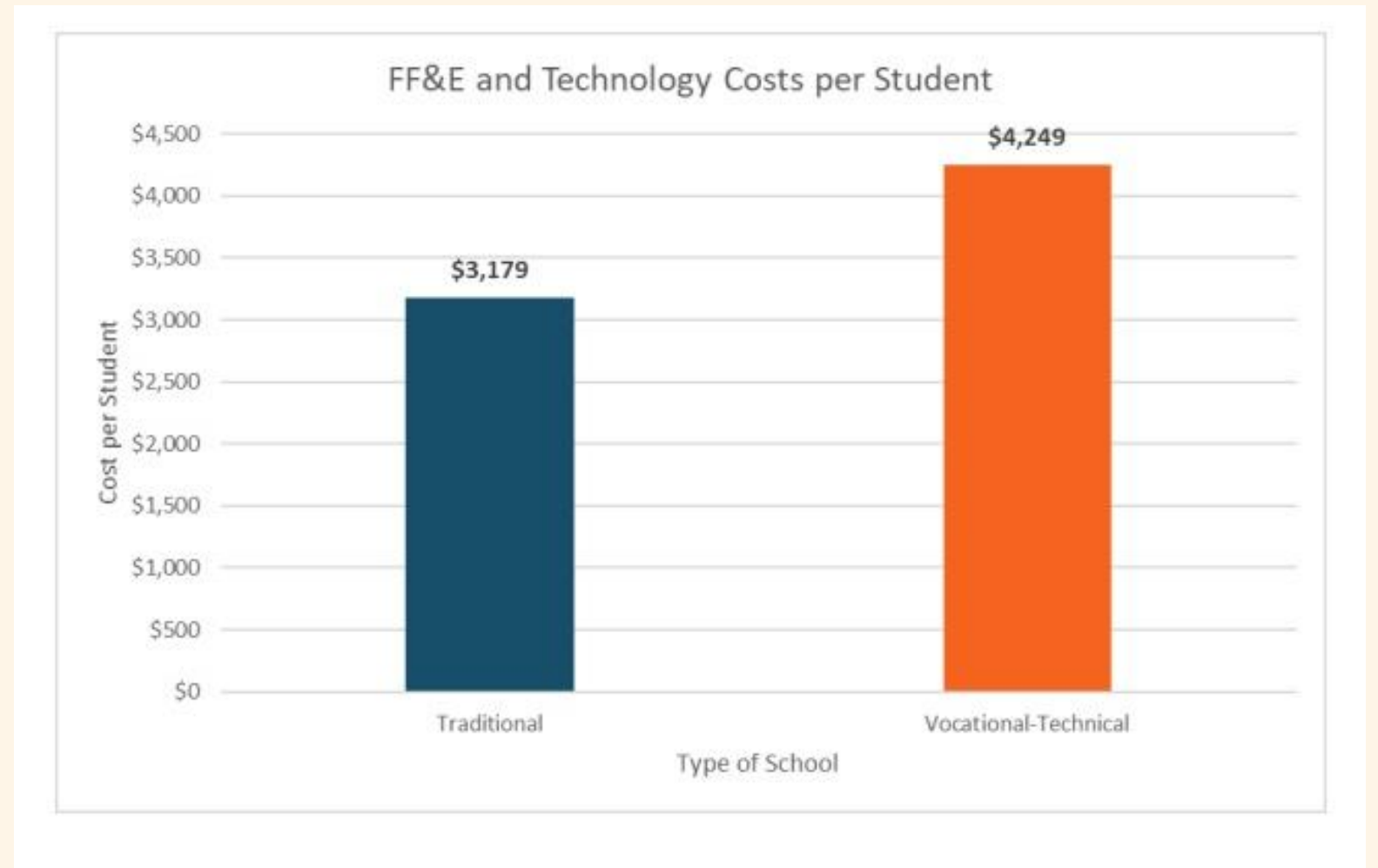


Source: Comparison of the Costs of Vocational-Technical High Schools and Traditional High Schools in Massachusetts
May 31, 2023 DRAFT

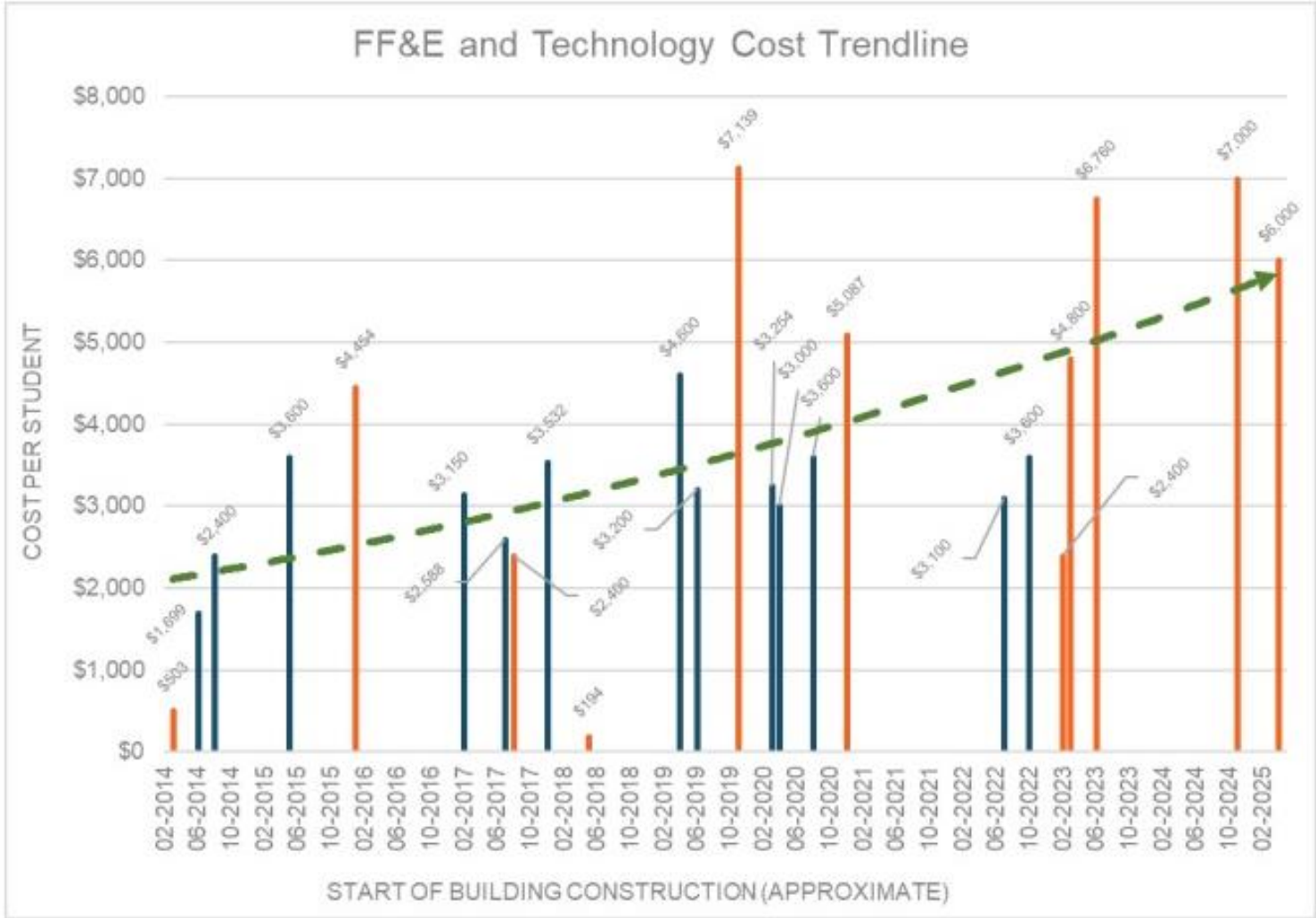


Differentiating Between Traditional and Vocational Projects

The average FF&E and Technology Costs per student for vocational programs exceeded that of traditional projects by over \$1,000 per student. This is due in great part to the need for specialized equipment & technology necessary for CH74 programming.



Differentiating Between Traditional and Vocational Projects



* FF&E and technology cost information is not available for Essex North Shore Agricultural & Technical school, so it is excluded from the above graph.

Source: Comparison of the Costs of Vocational-Technical High Schools and Traditional High Schools in Massachusetts
 May 31, 2023 DRAFT



Differentiating Between Traditional and Vocational Projects

Numbers displayed are less than a decade old and are a testament to the heightened escalation of construction costs over time.

Type of High School	Enrollment	Area per student (GSF)	Total Building Area (GSF)	Avg Cost Add-Reno (\$/GSF), BUILDING ONLY	Avg Cost New Construction (\$/GSF), BUILDING ONLY	Total Cost for Add-Reno (\$/GSF)	Total Cost New Construction (\$/GSF)
Vocational-Technical	1,140	306.7	349,638	\$321	\$425	\$112,233,798	\$148,596,150
Traditional	1,140	224.7	256,158	\$321	\$425	\$82,226,718	\$108,867,150
Difference						\$30,007,080	\$39,729,000

MAVA's Vision: Education for All

1 Inclusive Access

Ensure every qualified student can pursue vocational education.

2 Expanded Capacity

Increase the number of seats in vocational programs statewide.

3 Diverse Offerings

Provide a wide range of vocational paths to suit varied interests.

4 Quality Assurance

Maintain high standards across all CH74 vocational programs.



Interest in Expansion

In a recent survey of MAVA schools, a total of 24 responses were received. 20 of the 24 responses indicated interest in a grant program that would provide funding for expansion in the range of \$5M-\$25M dollars. *Three of the four schools that did not express interest, are already in the MSBA pipeline.*



Rendering: NEMT School Building Project – Northeast Metropolitan Regional Vocational High School



Top Areas of Interest for Vocational Expansion

HVAC

Plumbing

Electrical

Healthcare

Strategies for Expansion

1

Funding Increase

Allocate more resources to vocational schools and programs.

2

Partnerships

Collaborate with DE SE to establish a plan for discussion and access, and with industries to create relevant curricula and apprenticeships.

3

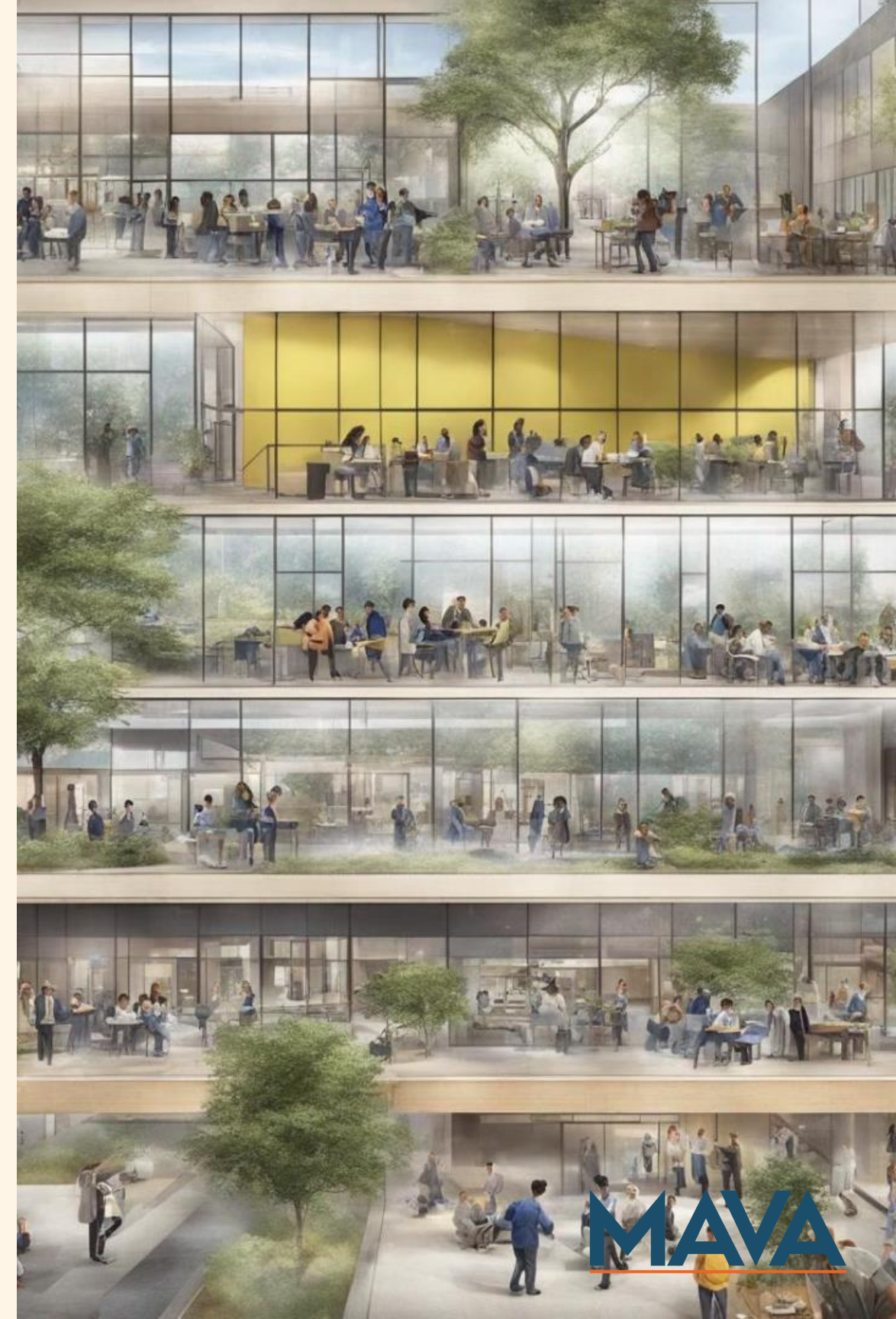
Infrastructure

Invest in new facilities and upgrade existing structures. Work with DE SE, the legislature, the MSBA to ensure funding reflective of costs.

4

Teacher Development

Recruit and train more vocational educators. Maintain integrity of licensure while removing barriers associated with entry and retention.



Recommended Advocacy and Legislation

- Increase MSBA reimbursement rates to no less than 75% to account for the differential costs inherent in the construction of vocational-technical high schools.
 - Impact: More Chapter 74 seats
 - Alleviated financial burden on member cities and towns
 - Increased likelihood of project approval
- Create a targeted grant program to fund \$5 million to \$25 million vocational expansions. Prioritize Gateway Cities and Rural Communities.
 - Invest \$100 million each year from the \$1.8 billion Fair Share Amendment to fund the program.
 - Faster turnaround than MSBA multi-year process.
 - Include ADA, Fire Protection, and Security

Call to Action: Invest in Our Future through partnership

Policymakers

Prioritize vocational education in budgets and legislation.

Educators

Advocate for expanded programs and resources. Differentiate between CH74 and alternative pathways. Support both.

Industry Leaders

Partner with schools to provide training and opportunities.

Community

Maintain and improve upon reciprocity with member towns and cities.

