
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 615 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY TARTAGLIONE, MUTH, FONTANA, KEARNEY, SCHWANK,
HUGHES, FARNESE AND COSTA, MAY 1, 2019

REFERRED TO LABOR AND INDUSTRY, MAY 1, 2019

AN ACT

1 Establishing the Schools-to-Work Program; and imposing powers
2 and duties on the Department of Labor and Industry.

3 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
4 hereby enacts as follows:

5 Section 1. Short title.

6 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Schools-to-
7 Work Act.

8 Section 2. Definitions.

9 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall
10 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
11 context clearly indicates otherwise:

12 "Department." The Department of Labor and Industry of the
13 Commonwealth.

14 "Program." The Schools-to-Work Program established under
15 this act.

16 "School." A public school, including a charter school, cyber
17 charter school, intermediate unit or area vocational-technical
18 school in this Commonwealth.

1 "Sponsor." An entity that registers a preapprenticeship
2 program with the department and receives a grant under this act.
3 Section 3. Schools-to-Work Program.

4 (a) Establishment.--The department shall establish a
5 Schools-to-Work Program to award grants on a competitive basis
6 to entities that support the establishment or enhancement of
7 workforce development partnerships between schools, employers,
8 organizations or associations for the purpose of creating
9 employment and training pathways.

10 (b) Grant proposals.--In order to apply for a grant under
11 the program, an entity must submit a grant proposal to the
12 department that includes all of the following:

13 (1) Partnership with at least one school.

14 (2) Demonstration that the entity is working with the
15 department toward registering a preapprenticeship program.

16 (3) Learning opportunities for participating students,
17 including classroom training, workplace visits, internships,
18 apprenticeships, mentorships or employment opportunities.

19 (4) Identification of the qualifications and
20 certifications necessary to fill current and anticipated
21 regional labor market needs.

22 (5) Demonstration of successful completion of the
23 program by students and attainment of industry-recognized
24 qualifications and certifications or college credits. Any
25 college credits earned should be transcribed and
26 transferrable.

27 (6) Pathways for transition of students to a registered
28 apprenticeship program, postsecondary education program or
29 employment.

30 (7) Demonstration of existing qualified program

1 personnel or identification of additional personnel needed,
2 if any, to establish or increase program capacity in order to
3 meet or contribute to meeting current and anticipated
4 regional labor market needs.

5 (8) Description of program curricula.

6 (c) Priority of applications.--The department shall give
7 priority to proposals that:

8 (1) Demonstrate a strong need to build new or existing
9 program capacity in order to meet or contribute to meeting
10 current and anticipated regional labor market needs.

11 (2) Incorporate students from grade nine through
12 graduation.

13 (3) Prioritize program completion and transition to
14 postsecondary training or education or employment.

15 (4) Involve a partnership between multiple school
16 districts, employers, organizations or associations.

17 (5) Demonstrate sustainability by leveraging additional
18 financial or personnel resources to be used for the program.

19 (d) Grant distribution.--The department shall award grants
20 under the program in consultation with the Department of
21 Education. The department shall consider geographic diversity
22 when selecting grant recipients.

23 (e) Limitation.--Grant funds may be used only for the
24 purposes stated in the grant proposal. Any remaining grant funds
25 not used for the program shall be returned to the department
26 within a time period prescribed by the department.

27 Section 4. Reporting requirements.

28 (a) Reports to department.--A grant recipient shall be
29 required to report to the department data related to the
30 program, including all of the following:

1 (1) The numbers of students who entered the program,
2 successfully completed the program and earned industry-
3 recognized qualifications, certifications or college credits,
4 including descriptions and totals of each credential.

5 (2) The number of students who transitioned to
6 postsecondary training or education or employment.

7 (3) Other data deemed relevant or necessary by the
8 department in consultation with the Department of Education.

9 (b) Annual reporting.--The department shall provide a report
10 to the General Assembly within two years of commencement of the
11 program and annually thereafter for each year the program is in
12 effect.

13 Section 5. Funding sources.

14 (a) General rule.--For the administration of the program,
15 the department may utilize:

16 (1) funds appropriated to the department for the
17 program; and

18 (2) funds appropriated or made available to the
19 department, if the use of the funds is consistent with law.

20 (b) Notice in Pennsylvania Bulletin.--Upon the initial
21 appropriation of sufficient funds to carry out the provisions of
22 this act or a determination by the department that sufficient
23 funds are available to carry out the provisions of this act, the
24 department shall transmit notice of the appropriation to the
25 Legislative Reference Bureau for publication in the Pennsylvania
26 Bulletin.

27 Section 6. Expiration.

28 This act shall expire June 30, 2024, or five years after the
29 effective date of this section, whichever is later.

30 Section 7. Effective date.

1 This act shall take effect in 60 days.