

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3893

To direct the Secretary of Education to establish a program that awards grants to State coalitions that build or expand career pathways programs in schools within the State, and to direct the Secretary of Education to establish a program that awards grants to eligible agencies to carry out career pathways programs.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 23, 2019

Mr. HARDER of California introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Education to establish a program that awards grants to State coalitions that build or expand career pathways programs in schools within the State, and to direct the Secretary of Education to establish a program that awards grants to eligible agencies to carry out career pathways programs.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This act may be cited as the “School to Career Path-
5 ways Act of 2019”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) In every congressional district, career and
4 technical education programs and career-connected
5 pathways programs play a vital role in ensuring
6 workers remain competitive in high-wage, high-skill,
7 and in-demand career fields, including information
8 technology, health care, and the skilled trades, all of
9 which have hundreds of thousands of job openings
10 across the United States.

11 (2) Every student should have access to career
12 and technical education opportunities to learn how
13 their academic background will prepare them for
14 postsecondary education and a career.

15 (3) Curriculum and course offerings should not
16 be based on the assumption that every student has
17 the same academic needs, interests, and goals. In-
18 stead, schools should prepare students for their indi-
19 vidualized career goals by providing opportunities for
20 students to discover and delve into their interests.
21 These opportunities may include career and tech-
22 nical education, personalized learning, apprentice-
23 ships, early college and dual enrollment, and lan-
24 guage immersion programs.

25 (4) Specifically, career and technical education
26 and dual enrollment programs integrate classroom

1 learning with technical, job-specific skills to prepare
2 students for high-skill careers in industries such as
3 information technology, manufacturing, health
4 science, nursing, medical professions, construction,
5 engineering, and more. Under the Carl D. Perkins
6 Vocational and Technical Education Act (20 U.S.C.
7 2301), States receive funding to integrate career
8 pathway programs with academic learning for stu-
9 dents who choose to enroll in career and technical
10 education programs.

11 (5) Career and technical education programs
12 currently serve 12,500,000 high school and college
13 students and boast a graduation rate of about 90
14 percent, which is 15 percent higher than the na-
15 tional average.

16 (6) Career-connected learning programs, which
17 integrate college preparatory academics, technical
18 training, work-based learning, and support, have had
19 positive outcomes for students.

20 (7) Six out of ten students plan to pursue a ca-
21 reer related to the career-connected learning pro-
22 grams they are exploring in high school.

23 (8) According to the Census Bureau 33.4 per-
24 cent of individuals in the United States hold college
25 degrees as of 2017, which falls drastically short of

1 meeting the national need for skilled labor and dem-
2 onstrates that traditional college career paths only
3 work for about 30 percent of individuals in the
4 United States.

5 (9) While career and technical education models
6 have been piloted across the United States, grant
7 programs need to be expanded to encourage addi-
8 tional school districts to offer students opportunities
9 for career-connected learning, including apprentice-
10 ships, and project-based learning pathways.

11 (10) Career and technical education programs
12 should incentivize school districts to offer summer
13 internships or course credit through opportunities
14 created by business and community partnerships.

15 **SEC. 3. STATE SKILLS EDUCATION COALITIONS.**

16 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Beginning not later than 90 days
17 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
18 of Education shall award grants to States to establish a
19 statewide career pathways coalition (in this section re-
20 ferred to as a “coalition”).

21 (b) **ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.**—Any State agency respon-
22 sible for carrying out educational programs in a State
23 shall be eligible for a grant awarded under subsection (a).

24 (c) **USE OF FUNDS.**—Funds made available under
25 such a grant shall be used for—

1 (1) convening employers to discuss local work-
2 force needs and trends;

3 (2) reaching out to local and regional public or
4 private partners and conducting research into local
5 workforce needs and trends;

6 (3) promoting skill standards and career paths
7 that match local employers' needs;

8 (4) helping to improve and govern the work-
9 force development system;

10 (5) bringing together businesses, faith-based
11 and community organizations, educational institu-
12 tions, labor unions, social service agencies, and other
13 providers to implement programs and policies to im-
14 prove labor market outcomes;

15 (6) increasing economic mobility for workers;
16 and

17 (7) increasing awareness of programs and re-
18 lated economic opportunities.

19 (d) CONDITIONS.—As a condition for receipt of funds
20 under such a grant, a State agency shall require a coali-
21 tion to do the following:

22 (1) Develop State plans for how to expand on
23 existing evidence-based programs that are effectively
24 providing nontraditional paths to students and rec-
25 ommendations on new programs that would provide

1 both academic and real-world work experience (such
2 as student apprenticeships, dual programs, career-
3 connected or integrated programs that provide con-
4 current credit).

5 (2) Establish a statewide career-connected
6 learning system.

7 (3) Promote diversity among apprentices by
8 promoting outreach to underrepresented populations
9 such as women and minorities, youth, individuals
10 with disabilities (as defined in section 3 of the Amer-
11 icans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.
12 12102)), and veterans.

13 (4) Provide the Governor of the State and Sec-
14 retary a list of findings and recommendations of the
15 coalition regarding the elements of a successful
16 statewide career-connected learning system.

17 (5) Not later than 18 months after the date of
18 the enactment of this Act, create a detailed and spe-
19 cific 4-year action plan for how the State school sys-
20 tem can implement a statewide career-connected
21 learning system, with a timeline for the implementa-
22 tion, and projected funding requirements of such
23 system.

24 (6) Not later than 2 years after the provision
25 of such plan, the coalition shall report on the imple-

1 mentation and success of its plan, including best
2 practices, and recommendations for improvement.

3 (e) MEMBERSHIP.—

4 (1) NUMBER AND APPOINTMENT.—Each coali-
5 tion established through funds received under such
6 a grant shall be comprised of—

7 (A) at least one individual recommended
8 by the State’s Public University Board or its
9 equivalent representatives (as determined by the
10 Governor); and

11 (B) a minimum of 9 individuals who have
12 public and private career or technical education
13 experience, including course instruction, se-
14 lected by the chief State school officer with ap-
15 proval from the State Board of Education or its
16 equivalent and State Public University Board
17 or its equivalent.

18 (2) COMPOSITION.—The coalition shall be rep-
19 resentative of the State’s geographical diversity. All
20 geographical regions (as determined by the chief
21 State school officer) must be represented by a min-
22 imum of one education stakeholder and one public or
23 private industry stakeholder. A regional representa-
24 tive may be determined by residence or location of
25 primary employment.

1 (f) TERMINATION.—Federal funds received under
2 such a grant shall terminate on the day after 6 years from
3 the enactment of this Act.

4 **SEC. 4. SECONDARY SCHOOL TO CAREER PATHWAYS INNO-**
5 **VATION GRANT PROGRAM.**

6 (a) CAREER PATHWAYS INNOVATION GRANT PRO-
7 GRAM ESTABLISHED.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—From amounts made avail-
9 able to carry out this section, the Secretary, after
10 consultation with the Secretary of Labor, shall es-
11 tablish a career pathways innovation grant program,
12 through which the Secretary shall award grants, on
13 a competitive basis, to eligible agencies for the pur-
14 pose of addressing the specialized skill needs of busi-
15 ness and industry by carrying out programs of study
16 and career pathways programs through school part-
17 nerships that support career pathways in high school
18 and career exploration in the middle grades.

19 (2) DURATION.—A grant awarded under this
20 section—

21 (A) shall be for a period of 3 years; and

22 (B) may be renewed for one additional 2-
23 year period, if the eligible agency demonstrates
24 sufficient progress in achieving the goals of the
25 initial grant.

1 (b) APPLICATION.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible agency desiring a
3 grant under this section shall submit to the Sec-
4 retary an application at such time, in such manner,
5 and containing such information as the Secretary
6 may require, and in accordance with requirements
7 under the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical
8 Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.).

9 (2) CONTENTS; PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT.—
10 The application submitted under paragraph (1) shall
11 include—

12 (A) an initial partnership agreement, en-
13 tered into by the eligible agency and all mem-
14 bers of the school partnership, that—

15 (i) specifies the duties and responsibil-
16 ities of each partner;

17 (ii) describes the commitment of re-
18 sources or materials to be provided by each
19 partner toward the school partnership, en-
20 suring that the business or industry part-
21 ners in the school partnership provide an
22 amount of resources, in cash or in-kind, to-
23 ward the activities supported under the
24 grant that equals or exceeds the amount
25 contributed by the eligible agency and the

1 amount to be provided by the grant under
2 this section; and

3 (iii) describes how the overall goals of
4 the school partnership align with any
5 statewide or regional workforce develop-
6 ment strategies in existence at the time of
7 the application, including those established
8 under the Workforce Innovation and Op-
9 portunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.) or
10 the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical
11 Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2301 et
12 seq.);

13 (B) a description of how the eligible agency
14 and members of the school partnership will col-
15 laborate to ensure the quality of the career
16 pathways program offered under the grant, in-
17 cluding any program that leads to an industry-
18 recognized credential or recognized postsec-
19 ondary credential earned as part of a career
20 pathway;

21 (C) identification of the goals and meas-
22 ures used to define progress toward student
23 outcomes; and

24 (D) a strategic plan describing the role
25 and activities of the eligible agency and all

1 members of the school partnership in sup-
2 porting how the program will be sustained fol-
3 lowing the end of the grant.

4 (c) AWARD BASIS.—In awarding grants under this
5 section, the Secretary shall—

6 (1) ensure that, to the extent practicable based
7 on the applications received under subsection (b)—

8 (A) not less than 15 percent of the grant
9 funds available to carry out this section are
10 awarded to rural eligible agencies; and

11 (B) not less than 5 percent of the grant
12 funds available to carry out this section are
13 awarded to eligible agencies that serve a sub-
14 stantial percentage of Indian or Native Hawai-
15 ian children; and

16 (2) except to the extent necessary to comply
17 with paragraph (1), give priority to—

18 (A) any eligible agency whose school part-
19 nership includes an institution of higher edu-
20 cation offering postsecondary credits, or an en-
21 tity offering a registered apprenticeship pro-
22 gram that is articulated through secondary
23 school programming counting towards the reg-
24 istered apprenticeship requirements, through

1 the career pathways program under the grant;
2 and

3 (B) any eligible agency whose career path-
4 ways program—

5 (i) in a high school, offers concurrent
6 enrollment opportunities for postsecondary
7 credit; or

8 (ii) leads to an industry-recognized
9 credential.

10 (d) USE OF FUNDS.—

11 (1) REQUIRED USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible
12 agency receiving grant funds under this section shall
13 use grant funds to build or expand a career path-
14 ways program featuring school partnerships that
15 supports career pathways in high school and career
16 exploration in the middle grades.

17 (2) PERMISSIVE USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible
18 agency receiving grant funds under this section may
19 use grant funds either during or outside of the
20 school day or school year—

21 (A) to hire a designated career pathways
22 partnership coordinator to seek out and build
23 relationships with business or industry partners
24 to foster and manage the school partnerships
25 supported under the grant;

1 (B) for the costs of new equipment, infra-
2 structure (such as facilities, technology, and
3 staffing), or transportation related to the career
4 pathways program;

5 (C) to recruit, or assist with State licen-
6 sure and credential requirements, career and
7 technical education teachers, and others imple-
8 menting career pathways programs;

9 (D) to train or support the professional de-
10 velopment of career and technical education
11 teachers and others implementing career path-
12 ways programs, including providing externship
13 opportunities for educators to spend time in in-
14 dustry;

15 (E) for youth apprenticeship, internship, or
16 experiential learning opportunities;

17 (F) to provide, as part of the career path-
18 ways program, coursework that awards postsec-
19 ondary credit at no cost to high school students;
20 and

21 (G) to support development of curricula
22 that offer industry-certified credentials.

23 (e) REQUIREMENTS.—

24 (1) MATCHING FUNDS.—An eligible agency that
25 receives a grant under this section shall provide, to-

1 ward the cost of the activities assisted under the
2 grant and from non-Federal sources, an amount
3 equal to or greater than the amount of the grant.
4 Such matching amount may be in cash or in-kind
5 and shall include support from business or industry
6 partners of a school partnership in accordance with
7 the partnership agreement described in subsection
8 (b)(2).

9 (2) PARTICIPATION OF BUSINESS OR INDUSTRY
10 PARTNER.—In any case where a business or indus-
11 try partner included in an initial partnership agree-
12 ment described in subsection (b)(2)(A) withdraws
13 from a school partnership supported under a grant
14 under this section, the eligible agency shall notify
15 the Secretary immediately of the withdrawal and of
16 the eligible agency's plan for obtaining a comparable
17 business or industry partner.

18 (f) REPORTS.—

19 (1) ELIGIBLE AGENCY REPORTS.—

20 (A) INTERIM REPORTS.—Not later than 18
21 months after receiving a grant under this sec-
22 tion, the eligible agency shall submit a report to
23 the Secretary demonstrating that the eligible
24 agency is achieving sufficient progress toward
25 the goals of the grant, and ensure that data col-

1 lection aligns with the requirements under the
2 Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Edu-
3 cation Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.),
4 and demonstrates how the program advances
5 Perkins Career and Technical Education Act
6 indicators.

7 (B) FINAL REPORTS.—Each eligible agen-
8 cy receiving a grant under this section shall
9 prepare and submit to the Secretary a final re-
10 port regarding the use of funds from the grant,
11 including the outcomes of the activities assisted
12 under the grant, not later than 90 days after
13 the end of the grant period.

14 (2) SECRETARY REPORTS.—The Secretary shall
15 prepare and submit to the House Education and
16 Labor Committee and the Senate Health, Education,
17 Labor, and Pensions Committee, on an annual basis,
18 a report regarding the grant program under this sec-
19 tion that includes a summary of the reports received
20 under paragraph (1) during the preceding year and
21 the outcomes resulting from the use of grant funds.

22 **SEC. 5. CAREER PATHWAYS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the
24 Assistant Secretary of Career, Technical, and Adult Edu-
25 cation, shall—

1 (1) administer and manage the career pathways
2 innovation grants awarded under section 4;

3 (2) provide technical assistance to eligible agen-
4 cies preparing grant applications under section 4(b);
5 and

6 (3) support career pathways partnership coordi-
7 nators, or other personnel of eligible agencies that
8 have received a grant under section 3, in order to
9 ensure that—

10 (A) the eligible agency participates in the
11 required school partnership; and

12 (B) the grant results in positive program
13 outcomes.

14 (b) DESIGNATED PERSONNEL FOR RURAL AND NA-
15 TIVE-SERVING APPLICATIONS.—The Secretary shall des-
16 ignate not less than 1 employee of the Office of Career,
17 Technical, and Adult Education who will exclusively sup-
18 port rural and native-serving eligible agencies with the
19 preparation of grant applications under section 4(b) and
20 the development of school partnerships necessary to apply
21 for and implement a grant under section 4.

22 **SEC. 6. DEFINITIONS.**

23 In this Act:

24 (1) BUSINESS OR INDUSTRY PARTNER.—The
25 term “business or industry partner” means—

- 1 (A) a local public or private business;
- 2 (B) a local public or private industry;
- 3 (C) a sector partnership (which has the
4 meaning given the term “industry or sector
5 partnership” in section 3 of the Workforce In-
6 novation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C.
7 3102));
- 8 (D) a community partner; or
- 9 (E) an intermediary organization.

10 (2) CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION.—The
11 term “career and technical education” has the
12 meaning given the term in section 3 of the Carl D.
13 Perkins Career and Technical Education Act (20
14 U.S.C. 2302), including:

15 (A) WORK-BASED LEARNING.—The term
16 “work-based learning” means sustained inter-
17 actions with industry or community profes-
18 sionals in real workplace settings, to the extent
19 practicable, or simulated environments at an
20 educational institution that foster in-depth,
21 firsthand engagement with the tasks required in
22 a given career field, that are aligned to cur-
23 riculum and instruction.

24 (B) PROGRAM OF STUDY.—The term “pro-
25 gram of study” means a coordinated, non-

1 duplicative sequence of academic and technical
2 content at the secondary and postsecondary
3 level that—

4 (i) incorporates challenging State aca-
5 demic standards, including those adopted
6 by a State under section 1111(b)(1) of the
7 Elementary and Secondary Education Act
8 of 1965;

9 (ii) addresses both academic and tech-
10 nical knowledge and skills, including em-
11 ployability skills;

12 (iii) is aligned with the needs of in-
13 dustries in the economy of the State, re-
14 gion, Tribal community, or local area;

15 (iv) progresses in specificity (begin-
16 ning with all aspects of an industry or ca-
17 reer cluster and leading to more occupa-
18 tion-specific instruction);

19 (v) has multiple entry and exit points
20 that incorporate credentialing; and

21 (vi) culminates in the attainment of a
22 recognized postsecondary credential.

23 (3) CAREER-CONNECTED LEARNING.—The term
24 “career-connected learning” means programs that

1 integrate college preparatory academics, technical
2 training, work-based learning, and support.

3 (4) CAREER PATHWAY.—The term “career
4 pathway” means a combination of rigorous and
5 high-quality education, training, and other services
6 that—

7 (A) aligns with the skill needs of industries
8 in the economy of the State or regional econ-
9 omy involved;

10 (B) prepares an individual to be successful
11 in any of a full range of secondary or postsec-
12 ondary education options, including apprentice-
13 ships registered under the Act of August 16,
14 1937 (commonly known as the “National Ap-
15 prenticeship Act”; 50 Stat. 664, chapter 663;
16 29 U.S.C. 50 et seq.) (referred to individually
17 in this Act as an “apprenticeship”, except in
18 section 171);

19 (C) includes counseling to support an indi-
20 vidual in achieving the individual’s education
21 and career goals;

22 (D) includes, as appropriate, education of-
23 fered concurrently with and in the same context
24 as workforce preparation activities and training
25 for a specific occupation or occupational cluster;

1 (E) organizes education, training, and
2 other services to meet the particular needs of
3 an individual in a manner that accelerates the
4 educational and career advancement of the indi-
5 vidual to the extent practicable;

6 (F) enables an individual to attain a sec-
7 ondary school diploma or its recognized equiva-
8 lent, and at least 1 recognized postsecondary
9 credential; and

10 (G) helps an individual enter or advance
11 within a specific occupation or occupational
12 cluster.

13 (5) COMMUNITY PARTNER.—The term “com-
14 munity partner” means a nonprofit organization
15 that has expertise—

16 (A) in the planning and delivery of edu-
17 cation, career training, and related programs;

18 (B) in forging coordination and coopera-
19 tion between educators and other members of
20 the community;

21 (C) in training educators and other
22 deliverers of educational services; or

23 (D) in development and implementation of
24 data systems that measure the progress of stu-

1 dents, schools, and institutions of higher edu-
2 cation, and career pathways programs.

3 (6) ELIGIBLE AGENCY.—The term “eligible
4 agency” means—

5 (A) a local educational agency;

6 (B) a consortium of local educational agen-
7 cies or an agent operating on behalf of the con-
8 sortium; or

9 (C) a school operated or funded by the Bu-
10 reau of Indian Education.

11 (7) ESEA DEFINITIONS.—The terms “high
12 school”, “local educational agency”, “middle
13 grades”, and “secondary school” have the meanings
14 given the terms in section 8101 of the Elementary
15 and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
16 7801).

17 (8) INDIAN.—The term “Indian” has the mean-
18 ing given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-
19 Determination and Education Assistance Act (25
20 U.S.C. 5304).

21 (9) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The
22 term “institution of higher education” has the
23 meaning given the term in section 101 of the Higher
24 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

1 (10) INTERMEDIARY ORGANIZATION.—The term
2 “intermediary organization” means a nonprofit orga-
3 nization that has expertise in training, forging pub-
4 lic-private partnerships, systems development, capac-
5 ity-building, improving scalability, and evaluation.

6 (11) NATIVE HAWAIIAN.—The term “Native
7 Hawaiian” has the meaning given the term in sec-
8 tion 6207 of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-
9 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7517).

10 (12) REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP PRO-
11 GRAM.—The term “registered apprenticeship pro-
12 gram” means a program registered under the Act of
13 August 16, 1937 (commonly known as the “National
14 Apprenticeship Act”; 50 Stat. 664, chapter 663; 29
15 U.S.C. 50 et seq.).

16 (13) SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP.—The term “school
17 partnership” means a partnership that—

18 (A) shall include, at a minimum—

19 (i) an eligible agency;

20 (ii) instructors and faculty at an eligi-
21 ble agency; and

22 (iii) one or more local business or in-
23 dustry partners; and

24 (B) may also include one or more of the
25 following partners:

1 (i) A local community-based organiza-
2 tion.

3 (ii) A joint labor-management part-
4 nership.

5 (iii) An institution of higher edu-
6 cation.

7 (iv) A State board or local board (as
8 such terms are defined in section 3 of the
9 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
10 (29 U.S.C. 3102)).

11 (v) An apprenticeship college (as de-
12 fined as an institution partnership that is
13 registered under the Act of August 16,
14 1937 (commonly known as the “National
15 Apprenticeship Act”; 50 Stat. 664, chapter
16 663; 29 U.S.C. 50 et seq.) and is an insti-
17 tution of higher education (as defined in
18 section 101(a) of the Higher Education
19 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a))).

20 (vi) Any other entity that the Sec-
21 retary, after consultation with the Sec-
22 retary of Labor, considers appropriate.

23 (14) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary”
24 means the Secretary of Education.

1 (15) STATE.—The term “State” means each
2 State of the United States, the District of Columbia,
3 and the territories of Puerto Rico, Guam, American
4 Samoa, Northern Mariana Islands, and U.S. Virgin
5 Islands.

6 (16) STATE EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.—The term
7 “State educational agency” has the meaning given
8 the term in section 602 of the Individuals with Dis-
9 abilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1401).

○