
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 796 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY SOLOMON, BERNSTINE, KLUNK, MURT, SIMS,
SCHLOSSBERG, HILL-EVANS, CIRESI, KEEFER, OTTEN, LAWRENCE,
MARKOSEK, NEILSON, ECKER, HARRIS AND COX, MARCH 12, 2019

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, MARCH 12, 2019

AN ACT

1 Establishing the Schools-to-Work Program; and providing for
2 powers and duties of the Department of Education.

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 "Business." An entity authorized to do business in this
13 Commonwealth and subject to taxes imposed under Article III, IV,
14 VI, VII, VIII, IX, XV or XX of the act of March 4, 1971 (P.L.6,
15 No.2), known as the Tax Reform Code of 1971, or a tax under
16 Article XVI of the act of May 17, 1921 (P.L.682, No.284), known
17 as The Insurance Company Law of 1921. The term includes a pass-

1 through entity, including a pass-through entity the purpose of
2 which is participating under this act and whose shareholders,
3 partners or members are composed of owners or employees of other
4 business firms.

5 "Department." The Department of Education of the
6 Commonwealth.

7 "Participating partnership." A school or schools partnered
8 with one or more businesses which have been awarded a grant
9 under the program.

10 "Program." The Schools-to-Work Program established under
11 section 3.

12 "School." A public school, including a charter school, cyber
13 charter school, intermediate unit or area vocational-technical
14 school, operating in a school district in this Commonwealth.
15 Section 3. Schools-to-Work Program.

16 (a) Establishment.--The Schools-to-Work Program is
17 established in the department to distribute grants on a
18 competitive basis to schools to support the establishment or
19 enhancement of partnerships with local businesses in order to
20 fill current and anticipated needs for employees with necessary
21 job qualifications and certifications.

22 (b) Grant proposals.--In order to apply for a grant under
23 the program, a school must submit a grant proposal to the
24 department. Subject to department and school district policy, a
25 school may join with other schools within or outside the school
26 district in submitting a proposal. The proposal may provide for
27 partnership with one or more businesses. The proposal shall
28 include all of the following:

29 (1) Participation of at least one local business.

30 (2) Work-based learning opportunities for participating

1 students, including workplace visits, internships,
2 apprenticeships, mentorships or employment opportunities.

3 (3) Identification of the qualifications and
4 certifications necessary to fill current and anticipated
5 employment needs of the participating business.

6 (4) Opportunities for students to earn industry-
7 recognized qualifications and certifications.

8 (5) Identification of additional personnel needed, if
9 any, in order to matriculate the number of certificate-
10 holding and qualified students needed to fill positions
11 within participating businesses.

12 (6) Description of the relationship between the
13 participating business and the school in creating curricula
14 that will lead to certification of students, apprenticeships
15 and jobs with participating businesses.

16 (c) Additional information.--A grant proposal may include
17 all of the following:

18 (1) Participation of a local work force investment
19 board.

20 (2) Opportunity for students to earn college credit.

21 (3) A commitment of private matching funds.

22 (4) Participation of a chamber of commerce or other
23 similar business organization.

24 (d) Priority of applications.--The department shall give
25 priority to proposals that:

26 (1) Demonstrate a strong need for career and technical
27 instructors.

28 (2) Provide internships or apprenticeships to students
29 from grade nine through graduation.

30 (3) Indicate the intent of a participating business to

1 hire students in the program upon graduation.

2 (4) Involve a partnership between multiple schools and
3 multiple businesses.

4 (5) Demonstrate additional financial or personnel
5 resources that will be used as matching support, in whole or
6 in part, for the grant proposal.

7 (e) Grant distribution.--The department shall award a total
8 of eight grants under the program. No participating partnership
9 is eligible to receive more than two grants. Each grant award is
10 limited to no more than 25% of the total funds appropriated for
11 the program in any fiscal year. The department shall consider
12 geographic diversity when selecting grant recipients.

13 (f) Limitation.--A school may use grant money only for the
14 purposes stated in the school's grant proposal. A school shall
15 return to the department any remaining grant money not used for
16 the program.

17 Section 4. Memorandum of understanding.

18 A participating partnership shall execute a memorandum of
19 understanding that outlines the responsibilities of the
20 participants. The responsibilities shall include all of the
21 following:

22 (1) Commitment to align high school and postsecondary
23 coursework with technical skills and workplace competencies
24 as defined by industry.

25 (2) Meaningful work-based learning opportunities for
26 participating students, including workplace visits,
27 internships, apprenticeships and mentorships.

28 (3) Commitment to develop a scope and sequence of
29 courses, curricula and work-based learning programs that
30 ensure students can earn relevant postsecondary credits or

1 industry certification.

2 (4) Articulation language that ensures any postsecondary
3 credits earned in the program are transcribed and
4 transferrable.

5 (5) If the participating partnership includes multiple
6 schools or businesses:

7 (i) Delineation of the responsibilities of each
8 school and business.

9 (ii) How grant money and resources dedicated to the
10 program will be divided among the participants.

11 Section 5. Reporting requirements.

12 (a) Schools.--A school participating in the program shall be
13 required to report to the department data related to the
14 program, including all of the following:

15 (1) The number of students certified as a result of the
16 program.

17 (2) The number of students who secured internships or
18 apprenticeships with participating businesses.

19 (3) The number of students employed as a result of
20 participating in the program.

21 (4) A detailed description of the use of grant money,
22 including an itemized list of expenditures.

23 (5) Other data deemed relevant or necessary by the
24 department.

25 (b) Annual reporting.--A school shall submit a report under
26 subsection (a) for each year in which the school participates in
27 the program.

28 Section 6. Expiration.

29 This act shall expire June 30, 2024.

30 Section 7. Effective date.

1 This act shall take effect in 60 days.