
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1522 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY SOLOMON, BERNSTINE, HILL-EVANS, SIMS, McCLINTON,
THOMAS, SANTORA, FREEMAN, GODSHALL, CHARLTON, V. BROWN,
SCHLOSSBERG, PASHINSKI, BULLOCK, DAVIS, D. COSTA, MACKENZIE,
DRISCOLL, CEPHAS, W. KELLER, ROEBUCK AND DONATUCCI,
JUNE 9, 2017

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, JUNE 9, 2017

AN ACT

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

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

6 Section 1. Short title.

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

9 Section 2. Definitions.

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

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

1 as The Insurance Company Law of 1921. The term includes a pass-
2 through entity, including a pass-through entity the purpose of
3 which is the making of contributions under this article and
4 whose shareholders, partners or members are composed of owners
5 or employees of other business firms.

6 "Career and technical school." A public secondary school
7 established under the provisions of Article XVIII of the act of
8 March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code
9 of 1949.

10 "Department." The Department of Education of the
11 Commonwealth.

12 "Program." The Schools-to-Work Program established under
13 section 3.

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

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

24 (b) Grant proposals.--In order to apply for a grant under
25 the program, a school must submit a grant proposal to the
26 department. The proposal shall include all of the following:

- 27 (1) Participation of at least one local business.
28 (2) Work-based learning opportunities for participating
29 students, including workplace visits, internships,
30 apprenticeships, mentorships or employment opportunities.

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

4 (4) Opportunities for students to earn industry-
5 recognized qualifications and certification.

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

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

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

16 (1) Participation of a local work force investment
17 board.

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

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

21 (1) demonstrate a strong need for career and technical
22 instructors;

23 (2) provide internships or apprenticeships to students
24 from grade nine through graduation; or

25 (3) indicate the intent of a participating business to
26 hire students in the program upon graduation.

27 (e) Grant distribution.--The department shall award a total
28 of eight grants under the program. The department shall consider
29 geographic diversity when selecting grant recipients.

30 (f) Limitation.--A school may use grant money only for the

1 purposes stated in its grant proposal. A school shall return to
2 the department any remaining grant money not used for the
3 proposal.

4 Section 4. Memorandum of understanding.

5 A school and a business participating in the program shall
6 execute a memorandum of understanding that outlines the
7 responsibilities of the participants. The responsibilities shall
8 include all of the following:

9 (1) Commitment to align high school and post-secondary
10 coursework with technical skills and workplace competencies
11 as defined by industry.

12 (2) Meaningful work-based learning opportunities for
13 participating students, including workplace visits,
14 internships, apprenticeships and mentorships.

15 (3) Commitment to develop a scope and sequence of
16 courses, curricula and work-based learning programs that
17 ensure students can earn relevant postsecondary credits or
18 industry certification.

19 (4) Articulation language that ensures any postsecondary
20 credits earned in the program are transcribed and
21 transferrable.

22 Section 5. Reporting requirements.

23 A school participating in the program shall be required to
24 report to the department data related to the program, including
25 all of the following:

26 (1) The number of students certified as a result of the
27 program.

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

30 (3) The number of students employed as a result of

1 participating in the program.

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

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

6 Section 6. Appropriation.

7 The sum of \$2,000,000, or as much thereof as may be
8 necessary, is annually appropriated from the General Fund to the
9 Department of Education for the Schools-to-Work Program for the
10 fiscal year July 1, 2017, to June 30, 2018, and July 1, 2018, to
11 June 30, 2019.

12 Section 7. Expiration.

13 This act shall expire June 30, 2020.

14 Section 8. Effective date.

15 This act shall take effect in 60 days.