
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 481 Session of
2024

INTRODUCED BY ABNEY, HILL-EVANS, SCHWEYER, PROBST, SCHLOSSBERG,
HANBIDGE, SANCHEZ, CURRY, KHAN AND GIRAL, JUNE 21, 2024

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, JUNE 21, 2024

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to
2 conduct a study and make recommendations on non-academic
3 barriers students face getting accepted into career and
4 technical education programs and identifying the barriers.

5 WHEREAS, Career and technical education is any form of
6 secondary education, given in school or elsewhere, the purpose
7 of which is to fit an individual to pursue effectively a
8 recognized profitable employment, whether pursued for wages or
9 otherwise; and

10 WHEREAS, Career and technical education is placed into
11 categories which may include industrial, agricultural, family
12 and consumer science, technical marketing and distributive
13 occupational, business and computer and information technology;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, It is the duty of the Secretary of Education to
16 report the number of approved programs, students enrolled,
17 secondary students enrolled in participating school districts,
18 scheduling patterns, including grades in which programs are
19 offered, and number of hours of instruction per year for each

1 program; and

2 WHEREAS, Any school district may establish a career and
3 technical school or department and two or more districts may
4 establish a joint career and technical school or department; and

5 WHEREAS, There are more than 80 career and technical centers,
6 plus high school-based programs teaching career and technical
7 education to students; and

8 WHEREAS, While there is not a one-size-fits-all pathway for
9 high school graduates, this Commonwealth has seen a 39% increase
10 in career and technical education students since 2015; and

11 WHEREAS, There are more than 68,000 students enrolled in
12 career and technical education programs, 28% of whom are special
13 education students; and

14 WHEREAS, Career and technical education in this Commonwealth
15 develops critical skills necessary to meet the needs of the
16 economy, and workforce development depends on career and
17 technical education, pre-apprenticeships, apprenticeships and
18 schools-to-work programs; and

19 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth is contributing just 9% of career
20 and technical education funding and local school districts are
21 providing 88%; and

22 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Association of Career and Technical
23 Administrators recently advised the Basic Education Funding
24 Commission that the current State funding model does not provide
25 schools with the resources needed to expand or update their
26 programs, which has resulted in thousands of students each
27 school year being turned away due to capacity, poor facilities
28 or staffing shortages; therefore be it

29 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives direct the
30 Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to conduct a study,

1 issue a report and make recommendations on the current barriers
2 to students being accepted into career and technical education
3 programs and schools; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That the report include:

5 (1) the number of students placed on wait lists or
6 turned away due to capacity or condition of facilities or
7 staffing, per area of study;

8 (2) the number of students without access to career and
9 technical education programming due to a lack of program
10 availability in their home district;

11 (3) the number of students placed on wait lists or
12 turned away due to capacity or condition of facilities or
13 staffing, per career and technical center and high school-
14 based program;

15 (4) the career and technical areas of study offered at
16 each career and technical center and high school-based
17 programs with wait lists or that have turned away students
18 due to capacity or condition of facilities or staffing;

19 (5) an analysis of the career and technical subsidy
20 formula and the impact of that formula on districts; and

21 (6) an evaluation of how other states handle career and
22 technical instructor credentialing to address the current
23 educator workforce shortages;

24 and be it further

25 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee
26 provide a report of its findings and recommendations in the
27 study to the House of Representatives no later than 120 days
28 after the adoption of this resolution.