

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9621

To award career pathways innovation grants to local educational agencies and consortia of local educational agencies, to provide technical assistance within the Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education to administer the grants and support the local educational agencies with the preparation of grant applications and management of grant funds, to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to support community college and industry partnerships, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 17, 2024

Ms. CRAIG (for herself and Mr. FINSTAD) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To award career pathways innovation grants to local educational agencies and consortia of local educational agencies, to provide technical assistance within the Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education to administer the grants and support the local educational agencies with the preparation of grant applications and management of grant funds, to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to support community college and industry partnerships, and for other purposes.

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

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “21st Century Work-
3 force Partnerships Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

5 In this Act:

6 (1) **ESEA DEFINITIONS.**—The terms “elemen-
7 tary school”, “high school”, “local educational agen-
8 cy”, “middle grades”, and “secondary school” have
9 the meanings given the terms in section 8101 of the
10 Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965
11 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

12 (2) **BUSINESS OR INDUSTRY PARTNER.**—The
13 term “business or industry partner” means—

14 (A) a business;

15 (B) an industry or sector partnership, as
16 defined in section 3 of the Workforce Innova-
17 tion and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3102);

18 (C) an association of multiple businesses
19 or other employers in an in-demand industry
20 sector or occupation, as defined in section 3 of
21 the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
22 (29 U.S.C. 3102);

23 (D) a community partner;

24 (E) an intermediary organization; or

25 (F) a labor management training partner-
26 ship.

1 (3) CAREER PATHWAY.—The term “career
2 pathway” has the meaning given the term in section
3 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
4 (29 U.S.C. 3102).

5 (4) COMMUNITY PARTNER.—The term “com-
6 munity partner” means a nonprofit organization or
7 a State, local, or Tribal government entity that has
8 expertise—

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

11 (B) in forging coordination and coopera-
12 tion between educators and other members of
13 the community;

14 (C) in training educators and other
15 deliverers of educational services;

16 (D) in development and implementation of
17 data systems that measure the progress of stu-
18 dents, schools, and institutions of higher edu-
19 cation, or career pathways programs; or

20 (E) in delivering an increase in earnings,
21 family incomes, or family resources.

22 (5) ELIGIBLE AGENCY.—The term “eligible
23 agency” means—

24 (A) a local educational agency;

1 (B) a consortium of local educational agen-
2 cies or an agent operating on behalf of the con-
3 sortium; or

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

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

10 (7) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The
11 term “institution of higher education” has the
12 meaning given the term in section 101 of the Higher
13 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

14 (8) INTERMEDIARY ORGANIZATION.—The term
15 “intermediary organization” means a nonprofit orga-
16 nization that has expertise in training, forging pub-
17 lic-private partnerships, systems development, capac-
18 ity-building, improving scalability, and evaluation.

19 (9) LABOR MANAGEMENT TRAINING PARTNER-
20 SHIP.—The term “labor management training part-
21 nership” means an independent organization jointly
22 controlled by employers and unions that supports
23 workforce training and development.

24 (10) NATIVE HAWAIIAN.—The term “Native
25 Hawaiian” has the meaning given the term in sec-

1 tion 6207 of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-
2 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7517).

3 (11) PROGRAM OF STUDY.—The term “pro-
4 gram of study” means a State approved career and
5 technical education program of courses that articu-
6 lates between secondary and postsecondary school.

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

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

14 (A) shall include, at a minimum—

15 (i) an eligible agency; and

16 (ii) one or more business or industry
17 partners; and

18 (B) may also include one or more of the
19 following partners:

20 (i) A community partner.

21 (ii) A labor management training
22 partnership.

23 (iii) An institution of higher edu-
24 cation.

1 (iv) A State board or local board (as
2 such terms are defined in section 3 of the
3 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
4 (29 U.S.C. 3102)).

5 (v) An apprenticeship college that—

6 (I) is not eligible to receive funds
7 under title IV of the Higher Edu-
8 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070
9 et seq.);

10 (II) is an institution that pro-
11 vides instruction related to a reg-
12 istered apprenticeship program or is a
13 sponsor of a registered apprenticeship
14 program; and

15 (III) meets the requirements of
16 subsection (a) or (b) of section 101 of
17 the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
18 U.S.C. 1001).

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

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

1 **SEC. 3. SECONDARY SCHOOL TO CAREER PATHWAYS INNO-**
2 **VATION GRANT PROGRAM.**

3 (a) CAREER PATHWAYS INNOVATION GRANT PRO-
4 GRAM ESTABLISHED.—

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

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

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

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

25 (b) APPLICATION.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible agency desiring a
2 grant under this section shall submit to the Sec-
3 retary an application at such time, in such manner,
4 and containing such information as the Secretary
5 may require.

6 (2) CONTENTS; PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT.—
7 The application submitted under paragraph (1) shall
8 include—

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

12 (i) specifies the duties and responsibil-
13 ities of each partner;

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

1 (iii) describes how the overall goals of
2 the school partnership align with any
3 statewide, regional, or local workforce de-
4 velopment strategies in existence at the
5 time of the application, including those es-
6 tablished under the Workforce Innovation
7 and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3101 et
8 seq.) or the Carl D. Perkins Career and
9 Technical Education Act of 2006 (20
10 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.);

11 (B) a description of how the eligible agency
12 and members of the school partnership will col-
13 laborate to ensure the quality of the career
14 pathways program offered under the grant, in-
15 cluding any program that leads to an industry-
16 recognized credential or postsecondary credit
17 leading to a degree or certification in a career
18 pathway;

19 (C) identification of the goals and meas-
20 ures used to define progress toward student
21 outcomes, which may align with existing goals
22 and measurement provided under the Elemen-
23 tary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20
24 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.), the Carl D. Perkins Ca-
25 reer and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20

1 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.), and the Workforce Inno-
2 vation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3101 et
3 seq.); and

4 (D) a strategic plan describing the role
5 and activities of the eligible agency and all
6 members of the school partnership in sup-
7 porting how the program will be sustained fol-
8 lowing the end of the grant.

9 (3) METHODS THAT MEASURE JOB QUALITY.—

10 The application submitted under paragraph (1) may
11 include a description of how the school partnership
12 will experiment with methods that measure job qual-
13 ity.

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

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

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

21 (B) not less than 5 percent of the grant
22 funds available to carry out this section are
23 awarded to eligible agencies that serve a sub-
24 stantial percentage of Indian or Native Hawai-
25 ian children; and

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

3 (A) any eligible agency whose school part-
4 nership includes an institution of higher edu-
5 cation offering postsecondary credits, or an en-
6 tity offering a registered apprenticeship pro-
7 gram that is articulated through secondary
8 school programming counting towards the reg-
9 istered apprenticeship requirements, through
10 the career pathways program under the grant;

11 (B) any eligible agency whose career path-
12 ways program—

13 (i) in a high school, offers concurrent
14 enrollment opportunities for postsecondary
15 credit; or

16 (ii) leads to a recognized postsec-
17 ondary credential, as defined in section 3
18 of the Workforce Innovation and Oppor-
19 tunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3102); and

20 (C) any eligible agency whose career path-
21 ways programs are focused on serving low-in-
22 come students (defined as eligible for benefits
23 under the free and reduced price school lunch
24 program established under the Richard B. Rus-
25 sell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C.

1 1751 et seq.)), out-of-school youth, students
2 with disabilities, students experiencing home-
3 lessness, students who are English language
4 learners, students who have low levels of lit-
5 eracy, or youth who are in or have aged out of
6 the foster care system.

7 (d) USE OF FUNDS.—

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

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

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

23 (B) for the costs of new equipment, infra-
24 structure (such as facilities, technology, and

1 staffing), or transportation related to the career
2 pathways program;

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

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

13 (E) for youth apprenticeship, pre-appren-
14 ticeship training, internship, or experiential
15 learning opportunities;

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

19 (G) to support development of curricula
20 that offer industry-recognized credentials; and

21 (H) to experiment with methods that
22 measure job quality.

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 (including leveraged staff time) and shall include
6 support from business or industry partners of a
7 school partnership in accordance with the partner-
8 ship agreement described in subsection (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.—By not later than
21 18 months after receiving a grant under this
22 section, the eligible agency shall submit a report
23 to the Secretary demonstrating that the eligible
24 agency is achieving sufficient progress toward
25 the goals of the grant.

1 (B) FINAL REPORTS.—Each eligible agen-
2 cy receiving a grant under this section shall
3 prepare and submit to the Secretary a final re-
4 port regarding the use of funds for the grant,
5 including the outcomes of the activities assisted
6 under the grant, by not later than 90 days after
7 the end of the grant period.

8 (2) SECRETARY REPORTS.—The Secretary shall
9 prepare and submit to Congress, on an annual basis,
10 a report regarding the grant program under this sec-
11 tion that includes a summary of the reports received
12 under paragraph (1) during the preceding year and
13 the outcomes resulting from the use of grant funds.

14 **SEC. 4. CAREER PATHWAYS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the
16 Assistant Secretary of Career, Technical, and Adult Edu-
17 cation, shall—

18 (1) administer and manage the career pathways
19 innovation grants awarded under section 3;

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

23 (3) support career pathways partnership coordi-
24 nators, or other personnel of eligible agencies that

1 have received a grant under section 3, in order to
2 ensure that—

3 (A) the eligible agency participates in the
4 required school partnership; and

5 (B) the grant results in positive program
6 outcomes.

7 (b) DESIGNATED PERSONNEL FOR RURAL AND NA-
8 TIVE-SERVING APPLICATIONS.—The Secretary shall des-
9 ignate not less than 1 employee of the Office of Career,
10 Technical, and Adult Education who will exclusively sup-
11 port rural and native-serving eligible agencies with the
12 preparation of grant applications under section 3(b) and
13 the development of school partnerships necessary to apply
14 for and implement a grant under section 3.

15 **SEC. 5. COLLEGE TO CAREER PATHWAYS INNOVATION**
16 **GRANT PROGRAM.**

17 Title III of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
18 U.S.C. 1051 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end
19 the following:

20 **“PART H—COLLEGE TO CAREER PATHWAYS**
21 **INNOVATION GRANT PROGRAM**

22 **“SEC. 399A. COLLEGE AND INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIPS PRO-**
23 **GRAM.**

24 “(a) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—Not later than the end
25 of the first full fiscal year after the date of enactment of

1 the 21st Century Workforce Partnerships Act, from funds
2 appropriated under section 399B, the Secretaries shall
3 award competitive grants to eligible entities described in
4 subsection (b) for the purpose of developing, offering, im-
5 proving, and providing educational or career training pro-
6 grams for students, including working students. The
7 grants shall be awarded for periods of 3 years and may
8 be renewed for 1 additional 2-year period, if the eligible
9 entity demonstrates sufficient progress in achieving the
10 goals of the initial grant period.

11 “(b) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—

12 “(1) PARTNERSHIPS WITH EMPLOYERS OR AN
13 EMPLOYER OR INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIP.—

14 “(A) GENERAL DEFINITION.—For pur-
15 poses of this section, an ‘eligible entity’ means
16 any of the entities described in subparagraph
17 (B) (or a consortium of any of such entities) in
18 partnership with an employer or an employer or
19 industry partnership representing multiple em-
20 ployers.

21 “(B) DESCRIPTION OF ENTITIES.—The en-
22 tities described in this subparagraph are—

23 “(i) a community college;

24 “(ii) a 4-year public institution of
25 higher education (as defined in section

1 101(a)) that offers 2-year degrees, and
2 that will use funds provided under this sec-
3 tion for activities at the certificate and as-
4 sociate degree levels;

5 “(iii) a Tribal College or University
6 (as defined in section 316(b));

7 “(iv) an apprenticeship college (as de-
8 fined as an institution partnership that is
9 registered under the Act of August 16,
10 1937 (commonly known as the ‘National
11 Apprenticeship Act’; 29 U.S.C. 50 et seq.)
12 and is an institution of higher education
13 (as defined in section 101(a))); or

14 “(v) a public or private nonprofit, 2-
15 year institution of higher education (as de-
16 fined in section 102) in the Commonwealth
17 of Puerto Rico, Guam, the United States
18 Virgin Islands, American Samoa, the Com-
19 monwealth of the Northern Mariana Is-
20 lands, the Republic of the Marshall Is-
21 lands, the Federated States of Micronesia,
22 or the Republic of Palau.

23 “(2) ADDITIONAL PARTNERS.—

24 “(A) AUTHORIZATION OF ADDITIONAL
25 PARTNERS.—In addition to partnering with em-

1 ployers or an employer or industry partnership
2 representing multiple employers as described in
3 paragraph (1)(A), an entity described in para-
4 graph (1) may include in the partnership de-
5 scribed in paragraph (1) one or more of the or-
6 ganizations described in subparagraph (B).
7 Each eligible entity that includes one or more
8 such organizations shall collaborate with the
9 State board or local board in the area served by
10 the eligible entity.

11 “(B) ORGANIZATIONS.—The organizations
12 described in this subparagraph are as follows:

13 “(i) A provider of adult education (as
14 defined in section 203 of the Adult Edu-
15 cation and Family Literacy Act (29 U.S.C.
16 3272)) or an institution of higher edu-
17 cation (as defined in section 101).

18 “(ii) A community-based organization.

19 “(iii) A joint labor-management part-
20 nership.

21 “(iv) A State board or local board.

22 “(v) A State higher education board.

23 “(vi) An elementary school or sec-
24 ondary school, as defined in section 8101

1 of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-
2 cation Act of 1965.

3 “(vii) Any other organization that the
4 Secretaries consider appropriate.

5 “(c) EDUCATIONAL OR CAREER TRAINING PRO-
6 GRAM.—For purposes of this section, the Governor of one
7 of the States in which at least 1 of the entities described
8 in subsection (b)(1)(B) of an eligible entity is located,
9 shall establish criteria for an educational or career train-
10 ing program leading to a recognized postsecondary creden-
11 tial that leads to higher subsequent employment and job
12 quality for which the eligible entity submits a grant pro-
13 posal under subsection (d).

14 “(d) APPLICATION.—An eligible entity seeking a
15 grant under this section shall submit an application con-
16 taining a grant proposal, for an educational or career
17 training program leading to a recognized postsecondary
18 credential, to the Secretaries at such time and containing
19 such information as the Secretaries determine is required,
20 including—

21 “(1) a detailed description of—

22 “(A) the extent to which the educational or
23 career training program described in the grant
24 proposal aligns with—

1 “(i) an overall strategic plan devel-
2 oped by the eligible entity;

3 “(ii) a statewide, regional, or local
4 workforce development plan in existence at
5 the time of the application, including a
6 plan established under the Workforce Inno-
7 vation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C.
8 3101 et seq.) or the Carl D. Perkins Ca-
9 reer and Technical Education Act of 2006
10 (20 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.);

11 “(iii) in-demand industry sectors or
12 occupations, as defined by the State or
13 designated governing board, as appro-
14 priate, or postsecondary credit leading to a
15 degree or certification in a career pathway;
16 and

17 “(iv) goals and measurement used to
18 define progress toward student outcomes
19 in existence on the date of submission,
20 which may align with the Carl D. Perkins
21 Career and Technical Education Act of
22 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.), and the
23 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
24 (29 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.);

1 “(B) the extent to which the program will
2 meet the needs of employers in the area for
3 skilled workers in in-demand industry sectors or
4 occupations;

5 “(C) the extent to which the program will
6 meet the educational or career training needs of
7 students in the area;

8 “(D) the specific educational or career
9 training program and how the program meets
10 the criteria established under subsection (e), in-
11 cluding the manner in which the grant will be
12 used to develop, offer, improve, and provide the
13 educational or career training program;

14 “(E) any previous experience of the eligible
15 entity in providing educational or career train-
16 ing programs, the absence of which shall not
17 automatically disqualify an eligible institution
18 from receiving a grant under this section;

19 “(F) how the program leading to the cre-
20 dential meets the criteria described in sub-
21 section (e); and

22 “(G) how attaining the credential will help
23 participants reach higher subsequent employ-
24 ment and job quality; and

1 “(2) a detailed plan on how the entity will en-
2 sure that the program will meet the performance
3 measures described in subsection (g), and an assur-
4 ance that the entity will annually submit to the Sec-
5 retary of Education information on the performance
6 of the program on the performance measures de-
7 scribed in subsection (g).

8 “(e) CRITERIA FOR AWARD.—

9 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Grants under this section
10 shall be awarded based on criteria established by the
11 Secretaries, that include the following:

12 “(A) A determination of the merits of the
13 grant proposal submitted by the eligible entity
14 involved to develop, offer, improve, and provide
15 an educational or career training program to be
16 made available to students.

17 “(B) An assessment of the likely employ-
18 ment opportunities available in the area to indi-
19 viduals who complete an educational or career
20 training program that the eligible entity pro-
21 poses to develop, offer, improve, and provide.

22 “(C) An assessment of prior demand for
23 training programs by individuals eligible for
24 training and served by the eligible entity, as
25 well as availability and capacity of existing (as

1 of the date of the assessment) training pro-
2 grams to meet future demand for training pro-
3 grams.

4 “(2) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this
5 section, the Secretaries shall give priority to eligible
6 entities that—

7 “(A) include a partnership, with an em-
8 ployer or an employer or industry partnership,
9 that—

10 “(i) pays a portion of the costs of
11 educational or career training programs;

12 “(ii) agrees to hire individuals who
13 have attained a recognized postsecondary
14 credential resulting from the educational or
15 career training program of the eligible en-
16 tity; or

17 “(iii) includes an educational entity
18 that has sought and received bonding au-
19 thority to fund partnerships program;

20 “(B) enter into a partnership with a labor
21 organization or labor-management training pro-
22 gram to provide, through the program, tech-
23 nical expertise for occupationally specific edu-
24 cation necessary for a recognized postsecondary

1 credential leading to a skilled occupation in an
2 in-demand industry sector or occupation;

3 “(C) are focused on serving individuals
4 with barriers to employment, students who are
5 veterans, spouses of members of the Armed
6 Forces, individuals who are basic skills defi-
7 cient, and first-generation college students;

8 “(D) include in the partnership any entity
9 serving areas with high unemployment rates;

10 “(E) include in the partnership an institu-
11 tion of higher education eligible for assistance
12 under this title or title V; and

13 “(F) ensure geographic diversity, including
14 appropriate representation of rural areas.

15 “(f) USE OF FUNDS.—Grant funds awarded under
16 this section shall be used for one or more of the following:

17 “(1) The development, offering, improvement,
18 and provision of educational or career training pro-
19 grams, that provide relevant job training for skilled
20 occupations, that lead to recognized postsecondary
21 credentials, that will meet the needs of employers in
22 in-demand industry sectors or occupations, and that
23 may include registered apprenticeship programs, on-
24 the-job training programs, and programs that sup-

1 port employers in upgrading the skills of their work-
2 force.

3 “(2) The development and implementation of
4 policies and programs to expand opportunities for
5 students to earn a recognized postsecondary creden-
6 tial, including a degree, in in-demand industry sec-
7 tors or occupations, including by—

8 “(A) facilitating the transfer of academic
9 credits between institutions of higher education,
10 including the transfer of academic credits for
11 courses in the same field of study;

12 “(B) expanding access to college-level,
13 transferable coursework, which may include co-
14 ordination related to transfers of credit between
15 institutions or common course numbering or
16 use of a general core curriculum;

17 “(C) developing or enhancing student sup-
18 port services programs; and

19 “(D) establishing policies and processes for
20 assessing and awarding course credit for work-
21 related learning.

22 “(3) The creation of career pathways programs
23 that provide a sequence of education and occupa-
24 tional training that leads to a recognized postsec-

1 ondary credential, including a degree, including pro-
2 grams that—

3 “(A) blend basic skills and occupational
4 training;

5 “(B) facilitate means of transitioning par-
6 ticipants from non-credit occupational, basic
7 skills, or developmental coursework to for-credit
8 coursework within and across institutions;

9 “(C) build or enhance linkages, including
10 the development of dual or concurrent enroll-
11 ment programs and early college high schools,
12 between secondary education or adult education
13 programs (including programs established
14 under the Carl D. Perkins Career and Tech-
15 nical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2301
16 et seq.) and title II of the Workforce Innovation
17 and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3271 et seq.));

18 “(D) are innovative programs designed to
19 increase the provision of training for students,
20 including students who are members of the Na-
21 tional Guard or Reserves, to enter skilled occu-
22 pations in in-demand industry sectors or occu-
23 pations;

24 “(E) support paid internships that will
25 allow students to simultaneously earn credit for

1 work-based learning and gain relevant employ-
2 ment experience in an in-demand industry sec-
3 tor or occupation, which shall include opportu-
4 nities that transition individuals into employ-
5 ment; and

6 “(F) develop competency-based education
7 programs that offer an outcome-oriented ap-
8 proach through which recognized postsecondary
9 credentials are awarded based on successful
10 demonstration of skills and proficiency.

11 “(4) The development and implementation of—

12 “(A) a Pay-for-Performance program that
13 leads to a recognized postsecondary credential,
14 for which an eligible entity agrees to be reim-
15 bursed under the grant primarily on the basis
16 of achievement of specified performance out-
17 comes and criteria agreed to by the Secretary
18 of Education; or

19 “(B) a Pay-for-Success program that leads
20 to a recognized postsecondary credential, for
21 which an eligible entity—

22 “(i) enters into a partnership with an
23 investor, such as a philanthropic organiza-
24 tion that provides funding for a specific
25 project to address a clear and measurable

1 educational or career training need in the
2 area to be served under the grant; and

3 “(ii) agrees to be reimbursed under
4 the grant only if the project achieves speci-
5 fied performance outcomes and criteria
6 agreed to by the Secretary of Education.

7 “(5) The development of a multiple measures of
8 job quality dashboard that experiments with dif-
9 ferent metrics to measure job quality.

10 “(g) PERFORMANCE MEASURES.—

11 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Education
12 shall establish performance measures for the pro-
13 grams carried out under this section.

14 “(2) MEASURES.—The performance measures
15 shall consist of—

16 “(A) indicators of performance, including
17 the number of program participants who are in
18 unsubsidized employment during the second
19 quarter after exit from the program;

20 “(B) a level of performance for each indi-
21 cator described in subparagraph (A); and

22 “(C) analysis of the income of program
23 participants during the second quarter after
24 exit from the program compared to the dis-
25 tribution of earnings across the workforce in

1 the State and the region during that same time
2 period.

3 “(3) MONITORING PROGRESS.—The Secretary
4 of Education shall monitor the progress of eligible
5 entities that receive grants under this section in en-
6 suring that their programs meet the performance
7 measures.

8 **“SEC. 399B. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

9 “(a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be ap-
10 propriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out
11 the program established by section 399A. Funds appro-
12 priated under this subsection shall remain available until
13 the end of the 5th full fiscal year after the date of enact-
14 ment of the 21st Century Workforce Partnerships Act.

15 “(b) ADMINISTRATIVE COST.—Not more than 5 per-
16 cent of the amounts made available under subsection (a)
17 may be used by the Secretaries for Federal administration
18 of the program established by section 399A, including pro-
19 viding technical assistance and carrying out evaluations
20 for such program.

21 **“SEC. 399C. DEFINITIONS.**

22 “In this part:

23 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The terms ‘basic skills defi-
24 cient’, ‘in-demand industry sector or occupation’, ‘in-
25 dividual with a barrier to employment’, ‘local board’,

1 ‘recognized postsecondary credential’, and ‘State
2 board’ have the meanings given the terms in section
3 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
4 (29 U.S.C. 3102).

5 “(2) COMMUNITY COLLEGE.—The term ‘com-
6 munity college’ has the meaning given the term ‘jun-
7 ior or community college’ in section 312(f).

8 “(3) EDUCATIONAL OR CAREER TRAINING PRO-
9 GRAM.—The term ‘educational or career training
10 program’ means—

11 “(A) a program that supports career path-
12 ways, as defined in section 3 of the Workforce
13 Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C.
14 3102); or

15 “(B) a program that involves integrated
16 education and training, as defined in section
17 203 of the Adult Education and Family Lit-
18 eracy Act (29 U.S.C. 3272).

19 “(4) SECRETARIES.—The term ‘Secretaries’
20 means the Secretary of Education in coordination
21 with the Secretary of Labor.”.

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