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SENATE BILL

**56TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2024**

INTRODUCED BY

Craig W. Brandt and Joshua N. Hernandez

FOR THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE

AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC EDUCATION; CREATING THE CAREER DEVELOPMENT  
SUCCESS PROGRAM; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. A new section of the Public School Code is  
enacted to read:

"[NEW MATERIAL] CAREER DEVELOPMENT SUCCESS PROGRAM--  
CREATED--APPLICATIONS--REPORTING AND EVALUATIONS--CREATING A  
FUND.--

A. As used in this section:

(1) "industry-recognized credential" means a  
credential that is recognized by business and industry at the  
local, state or national level, which includes a verification  
of an individual's qualification or competence;

(2) "program" means the career development

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1 success program;

2 (3) "qualified industry credential program"  
3 means a career technical education program that, upon  
4 completion, results in an industry-recognized credential;

5 (4) "qualified workplace training program"  
6 means an internship program, apprenticeship program or pre-  
7 apprenticeship program; and

8 (5) "school district" includes charter  
9 schools.

10 B. The "career development success program" is  
11 created as a three-year pilot program administered by the  
12 department to provide financial incentives to school districts  
13 to encourage students enrolled in grades nine through twelve to  
14 enroll in and successfully complete qualified industry  
15 credential programs or qualified workplace training programs.  
16 Each participating school district, as provided in Subsection D  
17 of this section, may receive at least two hundred fifty dollars  
18 (\$250) and up to seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750) for each  
19 student who, in the preceding budget year, successfully earned  
20 an industry-recognized credential through a qualified industry  
21 credential program or a qualified workplace training program.

22 C. Each school district may decide annually whether  
23 to participate in the program.

24 D. Funding for the program shall be distributed as  
25 follows:

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1 (1) for each budget year, the department shall  
2 distribute to each participating school district an amount of  
3 at least two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) and up to seven  
4 hundred fifty dollars (\$750), multiplied by the number of  
5 students reported by the participating school district as  
6 successfully earning an industry-recognized credential by  
7 completing a qualified industry credential program or a  
8 qualified workplace training program; except that a single  
9 participating school district shall not receive a distribution  
10 for more than ten percent of the total number of completed  
11 industry-recognized credentials reported by school districts;

12 (2) the department shall establish criteria to  
13 create a tiered system of funding incentives with greater  
14 funding amounts for qualified industry credential programs or  
15 qualified workplace training programs that are more costly to  
16 provide;

17 (3) a student at each participating school  
18 district may generate only one award, even if the student earns  
19 more than one industry-recognized credential; and

20 (4) if the statewide sum of awards exceeds the  
21 amount of available money appropriated for awards, funds shall  
22 be reduced proportionally to cover all eligible incentive  
23 awardees.

24 E. The department shall promulgate rules for the  
25 administration of the program, including maintaining a list of

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1 eligible industry-recognized credentials, and the collection  
2 and analysis of student, program and instructor data.

3 F. The department shall develop and maintain  
4 annually the list of industry-recognized credentials in  
5 partnership with the workforce solutions department, the higher  
6 education department, New Mexico's community colleges and  
7 employers from in-demand industries.

8 G. The department shall, at least annually, provide  
9 to each school district that does not participate in the  
10 program information explaining the program, including the  
11 industry-recognized credentials for which a participating  
12 school district may receive a distribution, the amounts of the  
13 distributions and the requirements and procedures for  
14 participating in the program.

15 H. The "career development success program fund" is  
16 created in the state treasury. The fund shall be nonreverting  
17 until the career development success program has ended, at  
18 which time the unencumbered or unexpended balance remaining in  
19 the fund shall revert to the general fund. The fund consists  
20 of appropriations, gifts, grants and donations. The fund shall  
21 be administered by the department, and money in the fund is  
22 appropriated to the department to establish the program.  
23 Expenditures from the fund shall be by warrant of the secretary  
24 of finance and administration pursuant to vouchers signed by  
25 the secretary of public education or the secretary's authorized

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1 representative.

2 I. The department shall provide annual and final  
3 reports to the legislature through the legislative education  
4 study committee and the governor on the efficacy of the  
5 program, which shall include the following information:

6 (1) the number and name of school districts  
7 that participated in the program;

8 (2) the number of students in each year of the  
9 program that the participating school districts reported as  
10 earning an industry-recognized credential, disaggregated based  
11 on student demographics;

12 (3) the names and count of specific industry-  
13 recognized credentials earned;

14 (4) the total amount appropriated for the  
15 program and the amounts distributed pursuant to Subsection D of  
16 this section, in total and to each participating school  
17 district;

18 (5) to the extent information is available,  
19 whether more students met the requirements for funding under  
20 the program after the program was enacted as compared to before  
21 the program was enacted; and

22 (6) whether the students participating in the  
23 program graduated from high school and whether, after  
24 graduation, they enrolled in post-secondary education, enlisted  
25 in the military or entered the workforce, and to the extent

1 practicable, whether the student's career is related to the  
2 industry-recognized credential completed."

3 SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION.--One million two hundred  
4 thousand dollars (\$1,200,000) is appropriated from the general  
5 fund to the career development success program fund for  
6 expenditure in fiscal year 2025 and subsequent fiscal years to  
7 carry out the purposes of the career development success  
8 program. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at  
9 the end of a fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund.

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