

SB64 stipulates the amount of financial incentive participating in school districts may receive for each high school student who successfully completes a career development program. These incentives are to be at least \$250, up to \$750, per successful student. A school district may only receive one incentive per student, regardless of how many career development programs the student completes.

By July 31, 2025 PED, in collaboration with the workforce solutions department and public post-secondary institutions, shall develop lists of career development programs available to the school districts' students.

SB64 provides the guidelines for an annual written report PED is to provide to the governor and the legislative education study committee by September 1 of each year. The final report is due no later than December 31, 2028. The final report is to include PED's assessment of the pilot project.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

SB64 appropriates \$1.5 million for the career development success pilot project fund. PED is directed to provide incentive payments for school districts who have high school students who successfully complete a career development program.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

SB64 is an opportunity to build greater relationships between secondary and post-secondary education within our communities. NMICC is composed of New Mexico's 8 independent community colleges (Clovis Community College, Central New Mexico Community College, Luna Community College, Mesalands Community College, New Mexico Junior College, San Juan College, Santa Fe Community College, Southeast New Mexico College), Northern New Mexico College, Western New Mexico University, and New Mexico Military Institute. All NMICC institutions are responsive to the needs of their community.

NMICC community colleges, Northern NM College, and Western NM University regularly develop programs that result in industry recognized credentials, with our program completers trained for good jobs in our communities.

SB64 could be broadened to incentivize collaborative working relationships between secondary and post-secondary institutions throughout New Mexico. By working collaboratively, secondary and post-secondary education can better serve our students.

ALTERNATIVES

The career development success pilot project fund could authorize funds to PED and the higher education department to encourage secondary and post-secondary institutions work together in career development success.