




Pathways Partnership High School

 ExcelinEd Pathways Model Policy | 2025

The purpose of the Pathways Partnership High School is to establish public-private partnerships to provide students with the opportunity to attend a high school or program within a high school, institution of higher education or industry partner’s business, where they experience:

- Rigorous career and technical education (CTE) and general education coursework
- Employer-led work-based learning experiences
- College credit courses
- Industry-recognized credentials

Partnership High School Act

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of (the state):

SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS

As used in this section, the terms have the following meanings:

- (1) “Base funding” is the sum of base funding provided to the school district or the charter school, as applicable, through the state’s funding formula for grades nine through twelve, including both state funding and any required local contribution.
- (2) “Higher-need student” means a student who is economically-disadvantaged, an English learner or a student with disabilities. Economically-disadvantaged means a student who is eligible for free or reduced-price meals. Student with disabilities means a student who has an Individual Education Plan (IEP) and is receiving services pursuant to the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).
- (3) “Priority Occupation” means an occupation identified by the state as high-demand (for example, a top 50 job in employment demand) and having projected job growth and high-wage (for example, provides a wage that is at least 90 percent of the annual median wage for all occupations in the state).
- (4) “Qualifying Industry-Recognized Credential” means a credential that is linked to a priority occupation.

SECTION 2. PATHWAYS PARTNERSHIP HIGH SCHOOL

- (1) The Pathways Partnership High School is established as a public-private partnership between K-12 public schools and public charter schools, postsecondary institutions, and industry partners to prepare students with the academic and technical skills and credentials they need to succeed in competitive careers across a range of industries, including but not limited to healthcare, technology, engineering, manufacturing, and trades.
- (2) Each partnership must consist of the following entities:
 - (a) A K-12 public school or public charter school;



- (b) A postsecondary institution recognized by the United States Department of Education; and
 - (c) An industry partner.
- (3) A Pathways Partnership High School provides students the opportunity to earn before leaving high school:
- (a) A high school diploma;
 - (b) An associate degree;
 - (c) A qualifying industry-recognized credential; and
 - (d) Work-based learning experience.
- (4) To establish a Pathways Partnership High School, the partnership must submit to the (*department of education*):
- (a) A memorandum of understanding among the Pathways Partnership High School partners delineating roles and responsibilities, including but not limited to curriculum alignment, instructional materials, instructional calendar, courses of study, student enrollment and attendance, grading policies, operational support, work-based learning experiences, and articulation of college credit earned.
 - (b) The (*department of education*) will create an application where applicants will detail how the Partnership will work. Applications will include a description of:
 - (i) A rigorous, relevant education for grades 9 to 14, focused on the knowledge and skills that students need for priority occupations;
 - (ii) Work-based learning (WBL) experiences, including mentoring by industry professionals and job training opportunities such as internships and apprenticeships;
 - (iii) Individualized academic support and career advising by K-12 and postsecondary faculty; and
 - (iv) Supporting evidence demonstrating the program's link to a priority occupation.
 - (v) A commitment from the industry partner to offer a Pathways Partnership High School program completer priority in interviewing for any occupations with the industry partner for which the student is qualified.
- (5) The Pathways Partnership High School program:
- (a) Must be open enrollment on a first-come, first-served basis with a student lottery if the program is oversubscribed.
 - (b) May not charge student tuition, registration fees or the cost of instructional materials.
- (6) Nothing shall prohibit a public charter school from fully participating in the Pathways Partnership High School program.
- (7) The (*department*) shall adopt rules to implement this section, including but not limited to application procedures and approval timelines for Pathways Partnership High School programs.



SECTION 3. PATHWAYS PARTNERSHIP HIGH SCHOOL STARTUP GRANT

- (1) Subject to legislative appropriation, the Pathways Partnership High School startup grant program is established within the (*department of education*) to fund and support the startup and implementation of the Pathways Partnership High School program.
- (2) The (*department of education*) shall administer the grant program and solicit grant proposals from K-12 public schools, including charter schools, institutions of higher education and industry leaders that are seeking to establish Pathways Partnership High School programs that meet the requirements of section 2.
- (3) The (*department*) shall make the grant application available to potential applicants by (*date*).
- (4) A grant proposal must include evidence of the applicant's plan to comply with each of the requirements in section 2.
- (5) Grant funds may be used for planning activities and other expenses associated with the creation of the Pathways Partnership High School program.
- (6) Grant recipients must submit an annual report of grant expenditures in a format prescribed by the (*department of education*).
- (7) Startup grants under this section may only be awarded to an applicant once. Awards per applicant are capped at \$_____.
- (8) \$_____ is hereby appropriated to the Pathways Partnership High School Startup Grant Program.

SECTION 4. PATHWAYS PARTNERSHIP HIGH SCHOOL OUTCOMES FUNDING

- (1) For each student who earns a qualifying industry-recognized credential prior to high school graduation the school or charter schools shall receive a bonus of 10 percent above base funding per student, with an additional 10 percent for a higher-need student.
- (2) For each student who achieves an associates degree prior to high school graduation the school or charter schools shall receive a bonus of 20 percent above base funding per student, with an additional 10 percent for a higher-need student.
- (3) For each student who achieves an associate's degree prior to high school graduation, the school or charter schools shall receive a bonus of 20 percent above base funding per student, with an additional 10 percent for a higher-need student who:
 - (a) completes a semester (or clock-hour equivalent) at a postsecondary institution without requiring remediation and earning a GPA (or equivalent) of at least 2.0; or
 - (b) is employed and earns at least 80 percent of the statewide median wage; or
 - (c) is enrolled in an apprenticeship program leading to an occupation that earns at least 80 percent of the statewide median wage; or
 - (d) enlisted and remains enlisted in the military.

SECTION 5. PATHWAYS PARTNERSHIP HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM REPORTING



- (1) By *(date)*, and annually thereafter for each year a Pathways Partnership High School program, the *(department of education)* shall report to the Governor and the {legislature}, the following information broken down by student demographics:
 - (a) The number of Pathways Partnership High School programs approved in the state;
 - (b) The number of students enrolled in each Pathways Partnership High School program;
 - (c) The type of school that each of the students attends while participating in the Pathways Partnership High School program;
 - (d) The number of students who earn the outcomes bonus and information on what has been earned;
 - (e) The number of students completing work-based learning and the types of experiences by industry sector;
 - (f) The average number of college credit hours per student earned in the Pathways Partnership High School program;
 - (g) A list of Pathways Partnership High School partners from higher education, industry, or other workplace partnerships; and
 - (h) Recommendations for expanding Pathways Partnership High School program enrollment and success.
- (2) Participating Pathways Partnership High School program entities must report any of the data components requested by the *(department of education)* to complete the reporting requirement in this subsection.

SECTION 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect upon becoming law.

