

Of the funds appropriated and authorized in this Act, including but not limited to K-12 initiatives, Pathways to Workforce Development, and the Workforce Scholarships and Grants Program, the State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education, the State Department of Education, the Department of Employment and Workforce, and the Department of Commerce shall develop a comprehensive workforce coordination initiative in order to improve employment outcomes and address critical workforce development needs statewide.

(A) The State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education and the State Department of Education shall develop and implement a statewide Career Pathways for Success program to facilitate a seamless transition from secondary education to employment in industries with critical workforce shortages. Allocated funds shall be used to provide the necessary infrastructure, including vocational equipment, facilities, instructional materials, transportation and tuition grants.

(1) Fifty percent of the funds utilized for the Career Pathways for Success program must be directed to school districts currently lacking adequate career development and workforce readiness programs with priority given to school districts with a poverty index of seventy-five percent or greater.

(2) Fifty percent of funds utilized for the Career Pathways for Success program must be used to establish programs in all regions of South Carolina that will confer the necessary skills and training to prepare students for careers in high-demand jobs and critical needs in businesses and industries experiencing difficulty recruiting and retaining qualified applicants.

(B) The State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education shall coordinate with the Department of Commerce, Department of Employment and Workforce, and the State Department of Education to develop and implement a program to provide subsidized career training and certification and job placement assistance to adults pursuing careers in high-demand jobs in critical need industries throughout the state.

(1) The State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education shall establish a Workforce Scholarships and Grants program for eligible individuals to be used for tuition and education-related expenses for career training and certification programs. The State Board shall develop and maintain eligibility criteria for this scholarship. Funds may be used to provide opportunities through existing programs such as readySC and Apprenticeship Carolina.

(2) The Department of Employment and Workforce shall coordinate with the State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education to identify and refer eligible individuals to the training programs and scholarship opportunities established above. The Department shall also coordinate with the Department of Commerce and the State Board to develop and implement a plan to facilitate the job placement of eligible individuals who have completed the necessary training and certification to ensure that qualified individuals are matched with available employment opportunities in high demand jobs throughout the state.

(C) The State Board of Technical and Comprehensive Education must prepare an annual report on the workforce initiative to be completed no later than February 1, 2016, which must be published on each agency's website and submitted to the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee and the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee. The report must include, at minimum, an analysis of program accountability measures and key performance indicators.