

STATE OF NEW YORK

1131--A

2017-2018 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 6, 2017

Introduced by Sen. MARCELLINO -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Finance -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to continuing the early college high school program and the pathways in technology early college high school program in this state; and making an appropriation therefor

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Legislative intent. The legislature hereby finds and
2 declares it necessary to preserve and continue the New York state early
3 college high school program and the New York state pathways in technolo-
4 gy early college high school program (P-TECH program) in this state
5 which provide various students, including those traditionally underrep-
6 resented in post-secondary education, with the opportunity to access
7 college-level courses and college degree credits at the high school
8 level with the combined support of high school and college staff and
9 resources, and for P-TECH programs, career training and employment in a
10 highly skilled job upon completion of the program.

11 The early college high school program not only increases students'
12 access to higher education, but also reduces potential costs for
13 students in completing college degrees by allowing them to either
14 complete a degree upon graduation from high school or to apply their
15 earned college credits towards an associate's or baccalaureate's degree.
16 This innovative program provides incentives to high school students to
17 proceed to college and to earn a college degree by accelerating their
18 overall completion of a degree. It also better prepares them for
19 college-level coursework, which, will in turn, increase their academic
20 performance. Ultimately, this program increases graduation rates both at

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 the high school and college levels, especially for academically at-risk
2 students.

3 The P-TECH program, through a public-private partnership, prepares
4 thousands of New York students for high-skill jobs of the future in
5 technology, manufacturing, healthcare and finance. The P-TECH program
6 provides students with a rigorous, relevant and cost-free high school
7 and college education and a workplace learning environment with ongoing
8 mentoring by professionals in the chosen career sector to better prepare
9 these students for successful careers. Students also receive a commit-
10 ment from the participating employer to be first in line for consider-
11 ation for a job following completion of the program. Ultimately, this
12 program increases graduation rates both at the high school and college
13 levels and provides essential career training for academically at-risk,
14 disadvantaged students, which at the completion of the program leads
15 these students to a skilled job.

16 The legislature hereby finds and declares it necessary to provide
17 funding for these programs to ensure that they continue in operation and
18 continue to provide students with these valuable services.

19 The legislature also finds and declares it necessary to provide addi-
20 tional funding for the state education department to administer and
21 evaluate these critical programs. These funds will support program staff
22 to supplement the oversight already being provided to these programs,
23 and ensure the timely and accurate analysis of data to further enhance
24 and validate these programs.

25 § 2. The education law is amended by adding a new section 6457 to read
26 as follows:

27 § 6457. Grant awards for New York state early college high school
28 programs. 1. Subject to an appropriation, the commissioner shall allo-
29 cate funds available for early college high school programs for the
30 purposes of increasing high school graduation rates for academically
31 at-risk, disadvantaged and/or economically disadvantaged students and to
32 increase their participation in post-secondary education through a
33 network of early college high school partnerships in the state.

34 2. For the purposes of this section:

35 a. "approved early college high school program" means a formal part-
36 nership between a school district and at least one institution of higher
37 education, approved by the commissioner in accordance with the regu-
38 lations of the commissioner and the request for proposals process, which
39 provides eligible students enrolled in such program with high school
40 courses leading to the granting of a high school diploma and college-
41 level courses leading to the granting of at least twenty-four college
42 credits and up to a post-secondary degree or diploma from a partner
43 institution of higher education at no cost to the student or student's
44 family.

45 b. "early college high school" means a public high school that offers
46 an approved early college high school program to its students;

47 c. "eligible applicant" means a New York state school district with an
48 approved early college high school program which partners with a not-
49 for-profit higher education institution to offer college-level courses
50 leading to the granting of at least twenty-four college credits and up
51 to a post-secondary degree or diploma, or a not-for-profit higher educa-
52 tion institution registered with the department which partners with a
53 New York state school district to offer an approved early college high
54 school program;

55 d. "eligible student" means a student who:

1 (i) is a resident of the school district in which the early college
2 high school is located and is enrolled in such school district; and
3 (ii) is registered to attend such high school for the academic years
4 for which the grant award is being sought.

5 3. Monies made available under this section shall be spent for the
6 following purposes as further prescribed by the commissioner in the
7 request for proposals process:

8 a. to provide additional staffing for the early college high school
9 program, including a program director and college liaison;

10 b. student recruitment activities;

11 c. to provide professional development to promote the early college
12 high school program, including cross-curriculum development between
13 secondary and post-secondary education partners to ensure curriculum
14 alignment that prepares students to succeed in college level courses
15 while in high school;

16 d. academic and social support services to promote college readiness
17 and a college-going culture;

18 e. transportation for students to take courses and participate in
19 activities at the partner campus of the higher education partner; and

20 f. tuition, books and fees; provided however that tuition reimburse-
21 ment shall only be allowable for non-remedial, credit-bearing college
22 courses.

23 4. The commissioner shall make awards to eligible applicants for an
24 approved early college high school program through a competitive request
25 for proposals process. The funding cycle for this program shall be for
26 five years commencing with the two thousand seventeen--two thousand
27 eighteen academic year, with a new grant cycle commencing every five
28 years. The program cycle shall be September first to August thirty-first
29 annually.

30 a. The commissioner shall prioritize partnerships that demonstrate the
31 willingness and capacity to serve students who have been identified as
32 economically disadvantaged and/or academically at-risk for not success-
33 fully completing high school or not enrolling in or succeeding in
34 college.

35 b. Priority shall also be given to early college high school programs
36 that were funded by the department under a prior request for proposals
37 process, based upon demonstration of successful student outcomes as
38 determined by the commissioner in regulations.

39 5. Eligible institutions shall file an application for approval by the
40 commissioner in a timeframe and manner prescribed by the commissioner,
41 demonstrating a need for such funding, including how the funding would
42 be used and how many students would be assisted with such funding.
43 Successful applicants will be funded as provided in accordance with the
44 request for proposals process.

45 6. No funds pursuant to this section shall be made available to
46 support the regular academic programs of any institution participating
47 in this program, nor shall funds be provided for programs which are
48 incompatible with the regents plan for the expansion and development of
49 higher education in this state.

50 § 3. The education law is amended by adding a new section 6458 to read
51 as follows:

52 § 6458. Grant awards for pathways in technology early college high
53 school (P-TECH) programs. 1. Subject to an appropriation, the commis-
54 sioner shall allocate the funds available for P-TECH programs for the
55 purposes of preparing eligible academically at-risk and/or economically
56 disadvantaged students for high-skill jobs including, but not limited to

1 those in science, technology, engineering, manufacturing, healthcare and
2 finance through a six-year academic program that combines high school,
3 college and career training.

4 2. For the purposes of this section:

5 a. "approved pathways in technology early college high school (P-TECH)
6 program" means a New York state P-TECH program, approved by the commis-
7 sioner in accordance with the regulations of the commissioner and the
8 request for proposals process, which provides eligible students enrolled
9 in such program with high school courses leading to the granting of a
10 high school diploma and college-level courses leading to the granting of
11 a post-secondary degree or diploma at a partnering college approved by
12 the department and career training with an eligible partnering employer;

13 b. "eligible applicant" means a New York state school district, which
14 must serve as the fiscal agent. The eligible applicant may work in coop-
15 eration with other school districts, a board of cooperative educational
16 services, or any combination of these entities with a partnership that
17 includes:

18 (i) one or more New York state not-for-profit higher education insti-
19 tutions provided that at least one institution offers an associate's
20 degree (or other two-year degree that is the industry standard for the
21 targeted jobs) linked to the goals of the approved P-TECH program, and
22 which awards the degree at no cost to the student/family; and

23 (ii) a regional New York state employer (or consortium of employers
24 from related sectors) and/or industry/entity/association that requires
25 highly skilled employees which will utilize the knowledge and skills
26 obtained from the secondary and post-secondary programs proposed under
27 the application and agrees to place students who successfully complete
28 the program first in line for a job; and

29 c. "eligible student" means a student who:

30 (i) is a resident of the school district, or a resident of a component
31 district of a consortium applicant, in which the P-TECH program is
32 located and is enrolled in such school district; and

33 (ii) is registered to attend such high school for the academic years
34 for which the grant award is being sought.

35 3. Monies made available under this section shall be spent for the
36 following purposes, as further prescribed by the commissioner in the
37 request for proposals process:

38 a. existing evidence-based and/or standards based curriculum that
39 focuses on a career in science, technology, engineering or math-related
40 career area within a P-TECH program;

41 b. recruitment activities for eligible students;

42 c. to provide professional development to promote the P-TECH program,
43 including cross-curriculum development between partners and to ensure
44 curriculum alignment that prepares students to succeed in college level
45 courses while in high school and during career training;

46 d. up to ten percent of funds awarded under this section may be used
47 for eligible applicants to purchase equipment needed to upgrade existing
48 programs or new equipment to start a program;

49 e. workshops and planning meetings between partners, including counse-
50 lors, parents, and college faculty, and business leaders to support
51 program sustainability and build awareness in the regions on the bene-
52 fits of having such programs;

53 f. post-secondary curriculum development that facilitates alignment
54 and articulation with secondary programs leading to college degrees
55 and/or other industry recognized credentials that meet the needs of
56 employers;

1 g. service contracts between members of the partnership;
2 h. transportation for eligible students to take courses and partic-
3 ipate in activities at the partner campus of the higher education part-
4 ner; and

5 i. tuition, books and fees; provided that tuition reimbursement shall
6 only be allowable for non-remedial, credit-bearing college courses.

7 4. The commissioner shall make grant awards to eligible applicants for
8 an approved P-TECH program.

9 a. Funds must first be set aside for those approved P-TECH programs
10 that were funded under the previous request for proposals process for
11 any cohort of students in such program so they can obtain a cost-free
12 associate's degree.

13 b. The commissioner may also make awards to eligible applicants for an
14 approved P-TECH program through a competitive request for proposals
15 process. The funding cycle for this program shall be for seven years
16 commencing with the two thousand twenty-one--two thousand twenty-two
17 academic year, subject to an appropriation, with a new grant cycle
18 commencing every seven years.

19 c. The commissioner shall prioritize partnerships that demonstrate the
20 willingness and capacity to serve students who have been identified as
21 economically disadvantaged or academically disadvantaged and at-risk for
22 not successfully completing high school or not enrolling in or succeed-
23 ing in college.

24 d. For awards made under a new request for proposals process, priority
25 shall also be given to P-TECH programs that were funded by the depart-
26 ment under a prior request for proposals process, based upon demon-
27 stration of successful student outcomes as determined by the commission-
28 er in regulations.

29 5. Eligible applicants shall file an application for approval by the
30 commissioner in a timeframe and manner prescribed by the commissioner,
31 demonstrating a need for such funding, including how the funding would
32 be used and how many students would be assisted with such funding.
33 Successful applicants will be funded as provided in accordance with
34 regulations of the commissioner and the request for proposals process.

35 6. No funds pursuant to this section shall be made available to
36 support the regular academic programs of any institution participating
37 in this program, nor shall funds be provided for programs which are
38 incompatible with the regents plan for the expansion and development of
39 higher education in this state.

40 § 4. The sum of thirty-five million dollars (\$35,000,000), or so much
41 thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated to the education
42 department out of any moneys in the state treasury general fund to the
43 credit of the aid to localities/local assistance account, not otherwise
44 appropriated, as follows:

45 a. thirteen million dollars for payment of grants to eligible insti-
46 tutions for early college high school programs in accordance with the
47 provisions of section 6457 of the education law, as added by section two
48 of this act. Such sum shall be payable on the audit and warrant of the
49 state comptroller on vouchers certified or approved by the commissioner
50 of education, in the manner prescribed by law.

51 b. twenty-three million dollars for payment of grants to eligible
52 institutions for pathways in technology early college high school
53 programs in accordance with the provisions of section 6458 of the educa-
54 tion law, as added by section three of this act. Such sum shall be paya-
55 ble on the audit and warrant of the state comptroller on vouchers certi-

1 fied or approved by the commissioner of education, in the manner
2 prescribed by law.

3 § 5. This act shall take effect immediately.