

**SB253 INTRODUCED**



1 SB253  
2 5N1V663-1  
3 By Senators Chesteen, Carnley, Elliott, Allen, Kitchens,  
4 Butler, Barfoot, Jones, Shelnutt, Figures, Smitherman,  
5 Sessions, Williams, Kelley, Singleton, Livingston, Reed,  
6 Hovey, Roberts, Weaver, Waggoner, Coleman-Madison  
7 RFD: Education Policy  
8 First Read: 21-Mar-24



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SYNOPSIS:

This bill would establish the Alabama Workforce Pathways Act.

This bill would provide different pathways towards earning a high school diploma based on the further workforce or continuing education plans of the student.

This bill would provide, subject to funding, for the upgrade or additional construction of career and technical education centers throughout the state.

This bill would also provide, subject to funding, for the Alabama Short-Term Credential Program to provide additional scholarships for the training of individuals through the Alabama Community College System.

A BILL  
TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

To establish the Alabama Workforce Pathways Act; to provide different pathways for earning a high school diploma based on future career paths; to require the State Board of Education and the State Department of Education to develop a



## SB253 INTRODUCED

29 curriculum for earning a Workforce Pathways diploma; to  
30 provide, subject to funding, for the refurbishing and  
31 construction of new career and technical education centers or  
32 K-12 students; and to also provide, subject to funding, for  
33 the Alabama Short-Term Credential Program to provide  
34 additional scholarships for training through the Alabama  
35 Community College System.

36 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

37 Section 1. (a) This act shall be known and may be cited  
38 as the Alabama Workforce Pathways Act.

39 (b) The purpose of this act is to provide enhanced  
40 academic and skilled trades opportunities for Alabama  
41 students, and to facilitate the development of a career  
42 pathways diploma at the K-12 level that would enhance career  
43 and technical education opportunities for high school students  
44 who plan to enter the workforce immediately after graduation.

45 (c) The Legislature finds and declares that high school  
46 students need more than one pathway to earn a high school  
47 diploma in this state.

48 Section 2. (a) The State Board of Education shall  
49 establish a new Workforce Pathways diploma at the K-12 level.

50 (b) Following the establishment of the Workforce  
51 Pathways diploma, the State Department of Education shall  
52 develop the curriculum for this program within 120 days after  
53 its approval by the State Board of Education.

54 (c) All K-12 students in this state shall earn the same  
55 high school diploma, regardless of which diploma pathway they  
56 follow; however, students enrolled in the Workforce Pathways



## SB253 INTRODUCED

57 diploma pathway shall only be required to complete two math  
58 credits and two science credits to earn their high school  
59 diploma instead of the four math and four science credits  
60 required of other students.

61 (d) In lieu of the math and science credits, students  
62 who do not plan to attend a postsecondary educational  
63 institution after high school may earn credits that apply  
64 toward graduation by completing career and technical education  
65 courses, which help prepare those students to go directly into  
66 employment in their chosen field following high school  
67 graduation.

68 (e) The State Department of Education shall work with  
69 local boards of education throughout the state to implement  
70 the Workforce Pathways diploma pathway at the local level.

71 Section 3. The State Board of Education may seek  
72 additional funding from the Legislature to construct,  
73 retrofit, or upgrade career and technical education centers  
74 throughout the state so that a career and technical education  
75 center is located within a reasonable distance from every high  
76 school in the state. While school systems with a larger  
77 population of students may need their own career and technical  
78 education center, school systems with smaller populations of  
79 students may share career and technical education centers.

80 Section 4. The Legislature may provide additional  
81 funding for the Alabama Short-Term Credential Program that  
82 provides scholarships to facilitate the participation of  
83 individuals in for credit and non-credit courses provided  
84 through the Alabama Community College System offering training



## SB253 INTRODUCED

85 for in-demand careers in the region where the course is  
86 taught.

87 Section 5. This act shall become effective October 1,  
88 2024.