

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



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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



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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



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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.