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H.B. 312
135th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

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Version: As Reported by House Primary and Secondary Education

Primary Sponsors: Reps. White and Young

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SUMMARY

- Establishes the Prenatal-to-Five Early Childhood to Post-Secondary Regional Partnerships Program to support early childhood to post-secondary regional partnerships throughout Ohio.
- Appropriates \$2.5 million to fund the program.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Regional Partnerships Program

The bill establishes the Prenatal-to-Five Early Childhood to Post-Secondary Regional Partnerships Program (“program”) to support existing and establish new early childhood to post-secondary regional partnerships throughout Ohio in regions that choose to participate. Each partnership must work collaboratively to increase educational attainment and economic mobility outcomes for children and adults.

Departmental responsibilities

The bill requires the Department of Education and Workforce and the Department of Higher Education to create, administer, and oversee the program.¹ In so doing, the Departments must do all of the following:

1. Coordinate and convene a cohort of all existing and emerging regional partnerships at least quarterly to share best practices and assist in organizational development and growth;

¹ R.C. 3301.85(A).

2. Distribute grants to qualifying partnerships to support regional collaboration programs that align educational resources and community support with regional in-demand workforce skills, opportunities, and jobs;
3. Work to ensure that at least one regional partnership exists within each of the six different regions of the state determined by JobsOhio (the regions are Cleveland (Northeast), Cincinnati (Southwest), Columbus (Central), Dayton (West), Southeast, and Toledo (Northwest));²
4. Report the progress and outcomes of each regional partnership at least twice a year to the Director of Education and Workforce and the Chancellor of Higher Education, and annually to the Governor and the General Assembly.³

Integration of Department of Children and Youth

Beginning January 1, 2025, the Director and Department of Children and Youth must participate in administering the program and the distribution of grants in conjunction with the Departments of Education and Workforce and Higher Education.⁴

Makeup of a Partnership

Each Partnership may consist of all of the following entities that are located in the same region:

1. Prenatal-to-five early learning programs;
2. Primary and secondary schools;
3. Educational service centers;
4. Out-of-school time providers;
5. Post-secondary institutions; and
6. Workforce and community partners.⁵

Grant eligibility requirements

To apply for grants under the program, a partnership must demonstrate an identified theory of action and explicit commitment to address all areas of the education and workforce continuum over time, including a commitment to measure and report targeted attainment outcome metrics.⁶ It must also demonstrate how it will (1) integrate and align its work with business advisory councils, the Educational Regional Service System, industry sector

² R.C. 187.01, not in the bill. See [Explore Our Regions](#) for a description of each region, which is available at JobsOhio's website: jobsohio.com.

³ R.C. 3301.85(B).

⁴ R.C. 3301.85(D).

⁵ R.C. 3301.85(A).

⁶ R.C. 3301.85(C)(1)(a).

partnerships, and other regional educational attainment efforts and (2) work with local health care systems, service providers, and other stakeholders to better address the workforce readiness, mental health, and well-being skills children and young adults need for success.⁷

Reporting of performance metrics

Each qualifying partnership must report all of the following performance metrics for the partnership's region to the Department of Education and Workforce and the Department of Higher Education:

1. Kindergarten readiness;
2. Third-grade reading proficiency;
3. Middle grade math proficiency;
4. High school graduation rates;
5. FAFSA completion rates;
6. Post-secondary enrollment;
7. Post-secondary credential or degree completion; and
8. Employment in the region, including the percentage of recent graduates who:
 - a. Found employment within one year of completing a post-secondary credential or degree; and
 - b. Completed some form of work-based learning while enrolled in a post-secondary institution.⁸

Appropriation

The bill appropriates \$2.5 million FY 2024 to fund the program and reassigns the unused balance of that appropriation at the end of FY 2024 for the same purpose in FY 2025.⁹

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	10-30-23
Reported, H. Primary & Secondary Education	12-13-23

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⁷ R.C. 3301.85(C)(1)(b) and (c).

⁸ R.C. 3301.85(C)(2).

⁹ Sections 2, 3, and 4 of the bill.