

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

SENATE BILL NO. 839

100TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR WALLINGFORD.

Read 1st time January 8, 2020, and ordered printed.

ADRIANE D. CROUSE, Secretary.

4652S.011

AN ACT

To amend chapter 173, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to the workforce diploma program.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Chapter 173, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be known as section 173.831, to read as follows:

173.831. 1. As used in this section, the following terms mean:

(1) "Academic skill intake assessment", a criterion-referenced assessment of numeracy and literacy skills with high reliability and validity as determined by third party research;

(2) "Adult dropout recovery services", includes, but is not limited to, sourcing, recruitment, and engagement of eligible students, learning plan development, active teaching, and proactive coaching and mentoring, resulting in an accredited high school diploma;

(3) "Approved program provider", a public, not-for-profit, or other entity that meets the requirements of subdivision (2) of subsection 3 of this section;

(4) "Average cost per graduate", the amount of the total program funding reimbursed to a provider divided by the total graduates for a cohort year;

(5) "Career pathways coursework", one or more courses that align with the skill needs of industries in the economy of the state or region that help an individual enter or advance within a specific occupation or occupational cluster;

(6) "Career placement services", services designed to assist students in obtaining employment, including career interest self-assessments and job search skills, including resume development

22 and mock interviews;

23 (7) "Coaching", proactive communication between the approved
24 program provider and the student related to the student's pace and
25 progress through the student's learning plan;

26 (8) "Department", the department of higher education and
27 workforce development;

28 (9) "Employability skills certification", a certificate earned by
29 demonstrating professional nontechnical skills through assessment,
30 portfolio, or observation;

31 (10) "Graduate", a student who has successfully completed all of
32 the state and approved program provider requirements in order to
33 obtain a high school diploma;

34 (11) "Graduation rate", the total number of graduates for the
35 fiscal year divided by all students for the fiscal year for whom the
36 approved program provider has received funding, calculated one fiscal
37 year in arrears;

38 (12) "Graduation requirements", course and credit requirements
39 for the approved program provider's accredited high school diploma;

40 (13) "High school diploma", a diploma issued by an accredited
41 institution;

42 (14) "Industry-recognized credential", an education-related
43 credential or work-related credential that verifies an individual's
44 qualification or competence issued by a third party with the relevant
45 authority to issue such credentials;

46 (15) "Learning plan", a documented plan for courses or credits
47 needed for each individual in order to complete program and approved
48 program provider graduation requirements;

49 (16) "Mentoring", a direct relationship between a coach and a
50 student to facilitate the completion of the student's learning plan
51 designed to prepare the student to succeed in the program and the
52 student's future endeavors;

53 (17) "Milestones", objective measures of progress for which
54 payment is made to an approved program provider under this section,
55 including earned units of high school credit, attainment of an
56 employability skills certificate, attainment of an industry-recognized
57 credential, and attainment of an accredited high school diploma;

58 (18) "Program", the workforce diploma program established in

59 this section;

60 (19) "Student", a participant in the program established in this
61 section who is twenty-one years of age or older, who is a resident of
62 Missouri, and who has not yet earned a high school diploma;

63 (20) "Transcript evaluation", a documented summary of credits
64 earned in previous public or private accredited high schools compared
65 with the program and approved program provider graduation
66 requirements;

67 (21) "Unit of high school credit", credit awarded based on a
68 student's demonstration that the student has successfully met the
69 content expectations for the credit area as defined by subject area
70 standards, expectations, or guidelines.

71 2. There is hereby established the "Workforce Diploma Program"
72 within the department of higher education and workforce development
73 to assist students with obtaining a high school diploma and developing
74 employability and career technical skills. The program may be
75 delivered in campus-based, blended, or online modalities.

76 3. (1) Before August 16, 2021, and annually thereafter, the
77 department shall issue a request for applications for interested
78 program providers to become approved program providers and
79 participate in the program. Applications shall include evidence that
80 such interested program provider meets the qualifications set forth in
81 subdivision (2) of this subsection.

82 (2) Each approved program provider shall:

83 (a) Be an accredited high school diploma-granting entity;

84 (b) Have a minimum of two years of experience providing adult
85 dropout recovery services;

86 (c) Have the ability to provide academic skill intake assessments
87 and transcript evaluations. Such academic skill intake assessments
88 may be administered in person or online;

89 (d) Have the ability to develop a learning plan for each student
90 that integrates graduation requirements and career goals;

91 (e) Provide a course catalog that includes all courses necessary
92 to meet graduation requirements;

93 (f) Have the ability to provide remediation opportunities in
94 literacy and numeracy;

95 (g) Have the ability to provide employability skills certification;

- 96 **(h) Have the ability to provide career pathways coursework;**
97 **(i) Have the ability to provide preparation for industry-**
98 **recognized credentials; and**
99 **(j) Have the ability to provide career placement services.**

100 **(3) Upon confirmation by the department that an applicant meets**
101 **all of the qualifications listed in subdivision (2) of this subsection, an**
102 **applicant shall become an approved program provider.**

103 **4. (1) The department shall announce the approved program**
104 **providers before October sixteenth annually, with authorization for the**
105 **approved program providers to begin enrolling students starting before**
106 **November fifteenth annually.**

107 **(2) Approved program providers shall maintain their approval**
108 **without reapplying annually if the approved program provider has not**
109 **been removed from the approved program provider list under this**
110 **section.**

111 **5. (1) Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection,**
112 **the department shall pay approved program providers for the**
113 **completion of the following milestones by each student:**

114 **(a) Two hundred fifty dollars for the completion of each half unit**
115 **of high school credit;**

116 **(b) Two hundred fifty dollars for attaining an employability**
117 **skills certification;**

118 **(c) Two hundred fifty dollars for attaining an**
119 **industry-recognized credential requiring no more than fifty hours of**
120 **training;**

121 **(d) Five hundred dollars for attaining an industry-recognized**
122 **credential requiring at least fifty-one but no more than one hundred**
123 **hours of training;**

124 **(e) Seven hundred fifty dollars for attaining an**
125 **industry-recognized credential requiring more than one hundred hours**
126 **of training;**

127 **(f) One thousand dollars for attaining an accredited high school**
128 **diploma.**

129 **(2) No approved program provider shall receive funding for a**
130 **student under this section if the approved program provider receives**
131 **federal or state funding or private tuition for that student.**

132 **6. (1) Approved program providers shall submit monthly**

133 invoices to the department before the eleventh calendar day of each
134 month for milestones met in the previous calendar month.

135 (2) The department shall pay approved program providers in the
136 order in which invoices are submitted until all available funds are
137 exhausted.

138 (3) The department shall provide a written update to approved
139 program providers by the last calendar day of each month. The update
140 shall include the aggregate total dollars that have been paid to
141 approved program providers to date and the estimated number of
142 enrollments still available for the program year.

143 7. Before July sixteenth of each year, each provider shall report
144 the following metrics to the department:

145 (1) The total number of students who have been funded through
146 the program;

147 (2) The total number of credits earned;

148 (3) The total number of employability skills certifications issued;

149 (4) The total number of industry-recognized credentials earned
150 for each tier of funding; and

151 (5) The total number of graduates.

152 8. (1) Upon the end of the second fiscal year of the program, the
153 department shall review data from each approved program provider to
154 ensure that each is achieving minimum program performance
155 standards, including:

156 (a) A minimum of a fifty percent graduation rate;

157 (b) A cost per graduate of seven thousand dollars or less.

158 (2) Any approved program provider that fails to meet the
159 minimum program performance standards described in subdivision (1)
160 of this subsection shall be placed on probationary status for the
161 remainder of the fiscal year by the department.

162 (3) Any approved program provider that fails to meet the
163 minimum program performance standards described in subdivision (1)
164 of this subsection for two consecutive years shall be removed from the
165 approved provider list by the department.

166 9. Any diploma issued under this section shall be recognized as
167 a secondary school diploma by the state.

168 10. The director of the department may promulgate all necessary
169 rules and regulations for the administration of this section. Any rule

170 or portion of a rule, as that term is defined in section 536.010, that is
171 created under the authority delegated in this section shall become
172 effective only if it complies with and is subject to all of the provisions
173 of chapter 536 and, if applicable, section 536.028. This section and
174 chapter 536 are nonseverable, and if any of the powers vested with the
175 general assembly pursuant to chapter 536 to review, to delay the
176 effective date, or to disapprove and annul a rule are subsequently held
177 unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking authority and any rule
178 proposed or adopted after August 28, 2020, shall be invalid and void.

Unofficial

Bill

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