

Adult Diploma Program

To: Chairman Robert Cupp and Representatives Phillips, Derickson, Kunze and Patterson

Background

Ten percent of Ohioans do not have a high school diploma – over 1 million people. House Bill 483 of the 2014 Mid-Biennium Review set requirements via Ohio Revised Code 3313.902 for an Adult Diploma Pilot Program. The purpose for this program is to create new pathways for adults 22 and older to earn a high school diploma while simultaneously earning an industry credential or certificate. This program was developed in consultation with key stakeholders throughout the state including the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation, the Ohio Board of Regents, the Ohio Association of Community Colleges, Ohio Technical Centers and the Adult Basic Literacy Education providers. This collaborative approach to create pathways for adults to complete their high school education, earn technical training and gain employment in high demand fields.

House Bill 64

Five planning proposals to address the Adult Diploma Program were funded for January – June, 2015. The sites include: Stark State College, Tri-C in Cuyahoga County, PENTA in Toledo; Miami Valley Career Tech Center and Pickaway-Ross Career Tech Center. Today I am representing all of the planning grants, but the statistics I am presenting are from the Stark State College grant. Each of these sites are working with local education and industry partners to develop competency-based high school and industry certification programs to meet high demand job areas. Utilizing the Ohio Board of Regents approved list of industry credentials, the projects will identify career pathways for the adults to gain not only their diploma and certification, but also start building college credit. Each of the programs are working to build career pathways where the high school diploma and industry certificate are the first steps toward additional certificates, an associate degree or a baccalaureate degree.

Ohio's population is 11,570,808 (U.S. Census Data); our project represents Stark, Summit and Wayne counties where the population totals is 1,032,327. The table below shows our numbers, including the percent and number of adults without the high school

diploma (NOTE: U.S. Census data is for adults 25 and older; adults 22-24 are not represented in this data).

2013	US	OH	STARK	SUMMIT	WAYNE	3 County Aggregates
POPULATION	316,497,531	11,570,808	375,432	541,824	115,071	1,032,327
+25 W/O H.S	14%	11.5%	10.1%	9.7%	14.1%	11.3% *
BELOW POVERTY	15.4%	15.8%	15%	15.4%	12.4%	14.3%
WHITE	77.7%	83.2%	88.8%	80.3%	95.9%	
BLACK	13.2%	12.5%	7.8%	14.7%	1.6%	
AMERICAN INDIAN	1.2%	0.3%	0.3%	0.2%	0.2%	
ASIAN	5.3%	1.9%	0.9%	2.6%	0.8%	
HISPANIC/LATINO	12.1%	3.4%	1.8%	1.9%	1.6%	
MULTI RACIAL	2.4%	2.0%	2.3%	2.2%	1.4%	

- Wayne county numbers include Amish population which typically leave school at age 14.

All data are from the US Census Bureau 2013 American Community Survey (ACS) and are aggregated and/or weighted by county where appropriate:

- In Stark, Summit & Wayne counties there are approximately **18,400** people aged 25-44 without a HS diploma, representing 8% of the population or 1 out of 12 people aged 25-44 (Note: data include <9th grade and 9-12th, no diploma)
- The **poverty rate** for people aged 25+ across all three counties without a HS diploma is **27%**, more than twice the rate of people with some college/Associates degree (12%) (Note: this is the initial goal – to move to this level)
- The median income for people aged 25+ across all three counties without a HS diploma is **only 56%** of the median for all people aged 25+. The median income for people age 25+ with some college/Associates degree is **91%** of the median for all people aged 25+ across all three counties.
- Earning a diploma and a short term certificate and/or an Associate's degree has the potential of virtually eliminating the median income gap and lifting a substantial percentage of the population above the poverty rate, thus reducing need for costly social services, etc.

From the 2013 Stark State College Economic Impact Study (from EMSI):

- Stark State students who achieve higher levels of education are statistically less likely to have poor health habits, commit crimes, or claim welfare or unemployment benefits. Improved lifestyles result in a reduced demand for government-supported services.
- For every \$1 of public money spent on Stark State, taxpayers receive a cumulative return of \$2.80 over the course of students' working lives in the form of higher tax receipts and public sector savings.

For example, a person without a high school diploma might earn \$17,000 - 20,000 per year. By earning the high school diploma AND a welding certificate, the individual's salary would more than double as entry level welding jobs average \$50,000/year.

House Bill 64 has money set aside for the five pilot sites to receive implementation dollars for the next two years. Many more schools have expressed interest in joining the program, so the governor's budget proposal expands this grant for up to five additional sites in the next fiscal year. The budget also proposes the payments structure for the existing sites and appropriates \$17.5 million over the biennium to fund adults once they enter these programs.

I urge you to support this legislation.

Respectfully submitted,

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