

As Reported by the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee

135th General Assembly

Regular Session

2023-2024

Sub. H. B. No. 71

Representative Santucci

**Cosponsors: Representatives Williams, Abdullahi, Humphrey, Johnson, Hillyer,
Dobos, Barhorst, Bird, Fowler Arthur, Click, Lear, Miller, J.**

A BILL

To enact section 3301.25 of the Revised Code to 1
establish the Community Connectors Workforce 2
Program and to make an appropriation. 3

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That section 3301.25 of the Revised Code be 4
enacted to read as follows: 5

Sec. 3301.25. (A) The department of education shall 6
establish the community connectors workforce program to support 7
connecting students to jobs and internships in their 8
communities. 9

(B) (1) The department shall oversee the program, and each 10
educational service center shall administer the program for the 11
school districts it serves. Each educational service center 12
shall, to the extent that funds are appropriated by the general 13
assembly to do so, employ at least one, but not more than three, 14
individuals to work as directors in high schools in the 15
districts to which it provides services. Each educational 16
service center shall determine the number of directors it 17

employs under this section. 18

(2) Educational service centers shall determine any 19
eligibility or application requirements for the directors, 20
however the director shall have experience in job placement, 21
school counseling, or primary and secondary education. 22

(C) Directors employed under division (B) of this section 23
shall do all of the following: 24

(1) Collaborate with OhioMeansJobs and other community 25
partners, as identified by the director, to identify available 26
jobs and internships in the community; 27

(2) Determine the number of students that may participate 28
in the program at the district or school; 29

(3) Create an application and procedures to apply for the 30
program and, as a part of the application procedures, interview 31
students to assess their professional skills to determine a 32
student's eligibility and preparedness to participate in the 33
program; 34

(4) Offer instruction in soft skills and professional 35
skills training. Such instruction shall be offered at the 36
discretion of each district or school. If a district or school 37
currently offers similar instruction the director shall 38
collaborate with those instructors, other appropriate school 39
officials that have commensurate experience, and professionals 40
who support career development in the school. Students may use 41
instruction under division (B) (4) of this section to qualify for 42
the OhioMeansJobs-readiness seal established under section 43
3313.6112 of the Revised Code. 44

(5) Report to the educational service center that employs 45
the director and to the department of education all of the 46

- following: 47
- (a) The number of students participating in the program; 48
- (b) The number of students who are placed in jobs or internships through the program; 49
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- (c) The number of students who receive soft skills and professional skills training offered by the director. 51
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- (D) Any business or organization that employs a student through the program shall comply with the applicable minor labor laws prescribed under section 4109.02 of the Revised Code. 53
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Section 2. All items in this act are hereby appropriated 56
as designated out of any moneys in the state treasury to the 57
credit of the designated fund. For all operating appropriations 58
made in this act, those in the first column are for fiscal year 59
2024 and those in the second column are for fiscal year 2025. 60
The operating appropriations made in this act are in addition to 61
any other operating appropriations made for these fiscal years. 62

Section 3. 63

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A	EDU DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION				
B	State Lottery Fund Group				
C	7017	200629	Community Connectors Workforce Program	\$8,000,000	\$8,000,000
D	TOTAL SLF State Lottery Fund Group			\$8,000,000	\$8,000,000

E TOTAL ALL BUDGET FUND GROUPS \$8,000,000 \$8,000,000

COMMUNITY CONNECTORS 65

The foregoing appropriation item 200629, Community 66
Connectors, shall be used for the Community Connectors Workforce 67
Program created in section 3301.25 of the Revised Code. 68

Section 4. Within the limits set forth in this act, the 69
Director of Budget and Management shall establish accounts 70
indicating the source and amount of funds for each appropriation 71
made in this act, and shall determine the manner in which 72
appropriation accounts shall be maintained. Expenditures from 73
operating appropriations contained in this act shall be 74
accounted for as though made in, and are subject to all 75
applicable provisions of, the main operating appropriations act 76
of the 135th General Assembly. 77