

As Introduced

136th General Assembly

Regular Session

2025-2026

H. B. No. 98

Representatives Santucci, Williams

**Cosponsors: Representatives Fischer, John, Klopfenstein, Claggett, Mullins,
Thomas, D., Workman, Daniels**

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 and 6
workforce shall establish the community connectors workforce 7
program to support connecting students to jobs, internships, and 8
career professionals in their 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, apprenticeships, and internships in the community, and 27
engage students in career mentoring with community members; 28

(2) Determine the number of students that may participate 29
in the program at the district or school; 30

(3) Create an application and procedures to apply for the 31
program and, as a part of the application procedures, interview 32
students and administer an aptitude test, as selected by the 33
director, to assess their professional skills to determine a 34
student's eligibility and preparedness to participate in the 35
program; 36

(4) Offer dedicated and regular classroom instruction to 37
the maximum number of students possible in soft skills and 38
professional skills training, including problem-solving, time 39
management, creative and critical thinking, communication and 40
civility, and ethics. If a district or school currently offers 41
similar instruction the director shall collaborate with those 42
instructors, other appropriate school officials that have 43
commensurate experience, and professionals who support the 44
development of career and life pathways in the school. Students 45
may use instruction under division (B) (4) of this section to 46

qualify for the OhioMeansJobs-readiness seal established under 47
section 3313.6112 of the Revised Code. 48

(5) Report to the educational service center that employs 49
the director and to the department of education all of the 50
following: 51

(a) The number of students participating in the program; 52

(b) The number of students who are placed in jobs, 53
apprenticeships, or internships through the program; 54

(c) The number of students who receive soft skills and 55
professional skills training offered by the director. 56

(D) Any business or organization that employs a student 57
through the program shall comply with the applicable minor labor 58
laws prescribed under section 4109.02 of the Revised Code. 59

Section 2. All items in this act are hereby appropriated 60
as designated out of any moneys in the state treasury to the 61
credit of the designated fund. For all operating appropriations 62
made in this act, those in the first column are for fiscal year 63
2026 and those in the second column are for fiscal year 2027. 64
The operating appropriations made in this act are in addition to 65
any other operating appropriations made for these fiscal years. 66

Section 3. 67

	1	2	3	4	5
A			EDU DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE		
B		State Lottery Fund Group			
C	7017	200629	Community Connectors	\$8,000,000	\$8,000,000

Workforce Program

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 69

The foregoing appropriation item 200629, Community 70
Connectors Workforce Program, shall be used for the Community 71
Connectors Workforce Program created in section 3301.25 of the 72
Revised Code. 73

Section 4. Within the limits set forth in this act, the 74
Director of Budget and Management shall establish accounts 75
indicating the source and amount of funds for each appropriation 76
made in this act, and shall determine the manner in which 77
appropriation accounts shall be maintained. Expenditures from 78
operating appropriations contained in this act shall be 79
accounted for as though made in, and are subject to all 80
applicable provisions of, the main operating appropriations act 81
of the 136th General Assembly. 82