

As Introduced

135th General Assembly

Regular Session

2023-2024

H. B. No. 348

Representatives Seitz, Isaacsohn

Cosponsors: Representatives Mathews, Upchurch, Galonski, Brewer, Somani, Abdullahi, Baker, Miller, J., Jarrells, Lightbody, Thomas, C., Sweeney, Robinson, Brennan, Forhan, Weinstein, Dobos, Carruthers, Denson

A BILL

To establish pilot programs to increase student 1
attendance and graduation rates through 2
financial awards and incentives, and to make an 3
appropriation. 4

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

Section 1. (A) For fiscal years 2024 and 2025, the 5
Department of Education and Workforce shall administer a pilot 6
program providing cash transfers as incentives for high 7
attendance rates for students in kindergarten and ninth grade. 8

(B) Any city, local, or exempted village school district 9
may express interest in the pilot program by applying to the 10
Department by a date established by the Department. Interested 11
school districts shall indicate in the application up to two 12
schools in the district that the district seeks to enroll in the 13
pilot program. Interested school districts may indicate in the 14
application which of the incentive distribution methods in 15
division (F) of this section would be most effective for the 16
school's student population. 17

(C) The Department shall select participating school	18
districts and schools based on the following criteria:	19
(1) At least one rural school district must be selected.	20
(2) At least one urban school district must be selected.	21
(3) All participating schools must have chronic	22
absenteeism in the highest quartile in the state based on the	23
most recent report cards issued under section 3302.03 of the	24
Revised Code.	25
(D) Each participating school shall provide a list of its	26
kindergarten and ninth grade students and their parents or	27
guardians to the Department.	28
(E) The Department shall select participants to receive	29
cash transfer incentives and participants in the control group	30
in one of the following manners:	31
(1) For each participating school, the Department shall	32
randomly select fifty per cent of kindergarten parents and	33
guardians and fifty per cent of ninth grade students to receive	34
cash transfer incentives. The other fifty per cent of either	35
parents and guardians or students shall serve as the control	36
group.	37
(2) The Department shall compare applicant school	38
districts and select similar schools to participate in the pilot	39
program. The Department shall then randomly assign half of the	40
participating schools to the cash transfer incentive group and	41
half to the control group.	42
(F) The Department shall test incentive distribution	43
methods including all of the following:	44
(1) Cash transfers of \$25 made biweekly during the school	45

year to participating ninth grade students and the parents or guardians of participating kindergarten students with an attendance rate of ninety per cent or higher for that two-week period;

(2) Cash transfers of \$150 at the end of each quarter of the school year to participating ninth grade students and the parents or guardians of participating kindergarten students with an attendance rate of ninety per cent or higher for that quarter;

(3) One cash transfer of \$500 at the end of the school year to participating ninth grade students and the parents or guardians of participating kindergarten students with an attendance rate of ninety per cent or higher for that school year.

A cash transfer made for a ninth grade student shall be payable jointly to the student and the student's parent or guardian. The Department shall spend the same total amount in cash transfers for each distribution method tested.

(G) Each school participating in the pilot program shall submit reports to the Department including all of the following:

(1) The participating students in the incentivized group and the control group;

(2) The attendance rates of the participating students from the year preceding the start of the pilot program;

(3) The attendance rates of the participating students for each month of the pilot program.

(H) Any record of the pilot program that includes individual student data is not a public record for the purposes

of section 149.43 of the Revised Code. 74

Section 2. (A) As used in this section: 75

(1) "Qualifying school district" means a city, exempted 76
village, or local school district that receives funding under 77
Title I of the "Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965," 78
20 U.S.C. 6301, et seq., and is ranked in the lowest twenty per 79
cent of school districts according to the four-year adjusted 80
cohort graduation rate, as determined by the Department of 81
Education and Workforce. 82

(2) "Eligible student" means a student who graduates from 83
a high school in a qualifying school district in fiscal year 84
2024 or 2025 under this section. 85

(B) (1) The Graduation Incentive Pilot Program is 86
established within the Department of Education and Workforce to 87
provide financial awards to eligible students upon graduation 88
from a selected high school in a qualifying school district for 89
fiscal years 2024 and 2025. 90

(2) The Department shall determine application procedures 91
for the program established under this section, which shall 92
include both of the following: 93

(a) A qualifying school district may apply for up to two 94
schools within the district to participate in the program. 95

(b) The Department shall select at least one qualifying 96
school district located in a rural area and at least one 97
qualifying school district located in an urban area of the 98
state. 99

(C) The Department shall distribute awards to eligible 100
students as follows: 101

(1) Two hundred fifty dollars to each student upon graduation;	102 103
(2) An additional award amount of up to two hundred fifty dollars, for a total award amount of five hundred dollars, for any eligible student with a grade point average of 3.0 or higher;	104 105 106 107
(3) An additional award amount of up to five hundred dollars, for a total award amount of seven hundred fifty dollars, for any eligible student with a grade point average of 3.5 or higher.	108 109 110 111
(D) Each qualifying school district that participates in the program under this section shall submit to the Department, in a manner determined by the Department, all of the following:	112 113 114
(1) The number of students participating in the program;	115
(2) The graduation rate for each school in the qualifying school district in the three years preceding the start of the program and after the program is implemented;	116 117 118
(3) The grade point averages of the graduating seniors in the three years preceding the start of the program compared to the grade point averages of students after implementation of the program.	119 120 121 122
(E) Any record of the pilot program that includes individual student data is not a public record for the purposes of section 149.43 of the Revised Code.	123 124 125
Section 3. All items in this act are hereby appropriated as designated out of any moneys in the state treasury to the credit of the designated fund. For all operating appropriations made in this act, those in the first column are for fiscal year	126 127 128 129

2024 and those in the second column are for fiscal year 2025. 130
 The operating appropriations made in this act are in addition to 131
 any other operating appropriations made for these fiscal years. 132

Section 4. 133

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A	EDU DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE				
B	General Revenue Fund				
C	GRF	200597	Program and Project Support	\$500,000	\$1,000,000
D	TOTAL GRF General Revenue Fund			\$500,000	\$1,000,000
E	TOTAL ALL BUDGET FUND GROUPS			\$500,000	\$1,000,000

PROGRAM AND PROJECT SUPPORT 135

Of the foregoing appropriation item 200597, Program and 136
 Project Support, up to \$250,000 in fiscal year 2024 and \$500,000 137
 in fiscal year 2025 shall be used to support the pilot program 138
 to provide cash incentives for high attendance rates established 139
 in Section 1 of this act. 140

Of the foregoing appropriation item 200597, Program and 141
 Project Support, up to \$250,000 in fiscal year 2024 and \$500,000 142
 in fiscal year 2025 shall be used to support the Graduation 143
 Incentive Pilot Program established in Section 2 of this act. 144

Section 5. Within the limits set forth in this act, the 145
 Director of Budget and Management shall establish accounts 146
 indicating the source and amount of funds for each appropriation 147

made in this act, and shall determine the manner in which	148
appropriation accounts shall be maintained. Expenditures from	149
operating appropriations contained in this act shall be	150
accounted for as though made in, and are subject to all	151
applicable provisions of, H.B. 33 of the 135th General Assembly.	152