

As Introduced

**135th General Assembly
Regular Session
2023-2024**

H. B. No. 71

Representative Santucci

**Cosponsors: Representatives Williams, Abdullahi, Humphrey, Johnson, Hillyer,
Dobos, Barhorst**

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
guidance counseling, and 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. Students may use instruction 39
under division (B) (4) of this section to qualify for the 40
OhioMeansJobs-readiness seal established under section 3313.6112 41
of the Revised Code. 42

(5) Report to the educational service center that employs 43
the director and to the department of education all of the 44
following: 45

(a) The number of students participating in the program; 46

(b) The number of students who are placed in jobs or internships through the program; 47
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(c) The number of students who receive soft skills and professional skills training offered by the director. 49
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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. 51
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Section 2. All items in this act are hereby appropriated 54
as designated out of any moneys in the state treasury to the 55
credit of the designated fund. For all operating appropriations 56
made in this act, those in the first column are for fiscal year 57
2024 and those in the second column are for fiscal year 2025. 58
The operating appropriations made in this act are in addition to 59
any other operating appropriations made for these fiscal years. 60

Section 3. 61

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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 63

The foregoing appropriation item 200629, Community 64
Connectors, shall be used for the Community Connectors Workforce 65
Program created in section 3301.25 of the Revised Code. 66

Section 4. Within the limits set forth in this act, the 67
Director of Budget and Management shall establish accounts 68
indicating the source and amount of funds for each appropriation 69
made in this act, and shall determine the manner in which 70
appropriation accounts shall be maintained. Expenditures from 71
operating appropriations contained in this act shall be 72
accounted for as though made in, and are subject to all 73
applicable provisions of, the main operating appropriations act 74
of the 135th General Assembly. 75