

1 SENATE BILL 64

2 57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2025

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Craig W. Brandt and Yanira Gurrola and Catherine J. Cullen

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8 FOR THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE

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10 AN ACT

11 RELATING TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS; CREATING THE CAREER DEVELOPMENT
12 SUCCESS PILOT PROJECT AS A THREE-YEAR PILOT PROJECT IN THE
13 PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT; PROVIDING FOR FINANCIAL INCENTIVES
14 TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS THAT PROMOTE AND ENCOURAGE STUDENT
15 ENROLLMENT IN AND SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF CAREER DEVELOPMENT
16 PROGRAMS; PROVIDING FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE PILOT
17 PROJECT; ASSIGNING DUTIES TO THE DEPARTMENT; REQUIRING ANNUAL
18 REPORTING; CREATING THE CAREER DEVELOPMENT SUCCESS PILOT
19 PROJECT FUND; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

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21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

22 SECTION 1. A new section of the Public School Code is
23 enacted to read:

24 "[NEW MATERIAL] CAREER DEVELOPMENT SUCCESS PILOT PROJECT
25 CREATED--CAREER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS--DEPARTMENT DUTIES--

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1 PROJECT TERMS--REPORTING--FUND CREATED.--

2 A. As used in this section:

3 (1) "career development program" means a
4 program that, upon completion, results in a credential
5 recognized by business and industry locally, statewide or
6 nationally that verifies a person's qualification and
7 competence to work in an occupation, trade or profession and
8 may include:

9 (a) a career technical education
10 program; or

11 (b) an internship approved by the
12 department or a pre-apprenticeship or apprenticeship program;
13 and

14 (2) "school district" includes charter
15 schools.

16 B. The "career development success pilot project"
17 is created as a three-year pilot project in the department to
18 study whether the number of students prepared to enter the
19 workforce after graduation increases if the state provides
20 financial incentives to school districts that promote and
21 encourage student enrollment in, and successful completion of,
22 career development programs. The pilot project shall be
23 administered as follows:

24 (1) a participating school district may
25 receive a financial incentive for each of the school's ninth-
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1 through twelfth-grade students who successfully complete a
2 career development program;

3 (2) the amount of a financial incentive shall
4 be determined by the department but shall be at least two
5 hundred fifty dollars (\$250) and no more than seven hundred
6 fifty dollars (\$750);

7 (3) a student may generate only one financial
8 incentive for a school district, even if that student
9 successfully completes more than one career development
10 program;

11 (4) financial incentives generated for a
12 school district shall be disbursed at the end of each school
13 year during the pilot project; and

14 (5) financial incentives received by a school
15 district may be expended at the district's discretion.

16 C. By July 31, 2025, the department shall:

17 (1) identify, in collaboration with the
18 workforce solutions department and public post-secondary
19 educational institutions, career development programs within,
20 or otherwise accessible to, each school district and prepare a
21 list of those programs;

22 (2) establish tiered financial incentives for
23 the career development programs in the department's list with
24 higher dollar amounts corresponding to career development
25 programs that are more costly to provide;

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1 (3) establish guidelines for a school
2 district's participation in the pilot project; and

3 (4) begin soliciting school districts to
4 participate in the pilot project.

5 D. The sum of financial incentives disbursed to a
6 school district each semester shall not exceed ten percent of
7 the sum of financial incentives generated statewide for all
8 participating school districts. If the sum of financial
9 incentives generated statewide for all participating school
10 districts exceeds available funding, the department shall
11 reduce financial incentives proportionally; provided that the
12 reduced amount of a financial incentive shall be no less than
13 two hundred fifty dollars (\$250).

14 E. By September 1 of each year of the pilot
15 project, beginning in 2026, the department shall provide a
16 written report to the governor and the legislative education
17 study committee that includes:

18 (1) the number and names of school districts
19 that participated in the pilot project;

20 (2) the number of students who successfully
21 completed a career development program, disaggregated based on
22 student demographics;

23 (3) a description of the career development
24 programs successfully completed by students;

25 (4) the amount of money expended by the

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1 department to administer the project and a description of the
2 expenditures;

3 (5) an opinion as to whether, based on
4 interest in the pilot project, the department anticipates a
5 need for additional funding to avoid a reduction of financial
6 incentives; and

7 (6) if available:

8 (a) a comparison of the number of
9 students who successfully completed a career development
10 program in the reporting year with the number of students who
11 successfully completed a career development program before the
12 pilot project was implemented;

13 (b) a description of career development
14 programs completed by students before the pilot project was
15 implemented; and

16 (c) information about the post-
17 graduation outcomes for students who generated financial
18 incentives for school districts.

19 F. By December 31, 2028, the department shall
20 provide a final report on the pilot project to the governor and
21 the legislative education study committee that includes the
22 department's assessment of the pilot project and legislative
23 recommendations.

24 G. The "career development success pilot project
25 fund" is created in the state treasury. The fund consists of
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1 appropriations, gifts, grants and donations. The department
2 shall administer the fund, and money in the fund is
3 appropriated to the department to administer the career
4 development success pilot project. Expenditures from the fund
5 shall be by warrant of the secretary of finance and
6 administration pursuant to vouchers signed by the secretary of
7 public education or the secretary's authorized representative.
8 Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining in the fund at
9 the end of fiscal year 2028 shall revert to the general fund."

10 SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION.--One million five hundred
11 thousand dollars (\$1,500,000) is appropriated from the general
12 fund to the career development success pilot project fund for
13 expenditure in fiscal years 2026 through 2028 to administer the
14 career development success pilot project. Any unexpended or
15 unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2028
16 shall revert to the general fund.