

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY



PA 22-125—sSB 228
Education Committee
Appropriations Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING THE PIPELINE FOR CONNECTICUT'S FUTURE PROGRAM AND THE PROVISION OF INFORMATION ABOUT THE AVAILABILITY OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND CAREER SCHOOLS AND REGIONAL AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION CENTERS

SUMMARY: This act requires local and regional boards of education (“school boards”) to require that their school counselors provide information to middle and high school students and their parents on the availability of (1) vocational, technical, technological, and postsecondary education and training at technical education and career schools (i.e., “technical high schools”) and (2) agricultural science and technology education at regional agricultural science and technology education centers (i.e., “vo-ag programs”). It also requires school boards to publish this information on their websites. Under prior law, school boards had to inform these students and parents about the availability of this education and training.

The act also requires the State Department of Education (SDE), by July 1, 2023, to develop best practices that school boards may use when setting up a Pipeline for Connecticut’s Future program (i.e., a pathways program), which involves boards partnering with local businesses to offer students on-site training and course credit (CGS § 10-21k). In doing so, SDE must collaborate with stakeholders and school boards that have successfully implemented a pathways program. Additionally, SDE must make these best practices available to school boards upon request.

Lastly, the act requires the SDE commissioner to review existing state laws and regulations related to school boards setting up pathways programs and identify any obstacles or prohibitions that may limit a board’s ability to build partnerships with local businesses and create a successful program. Under the act, the review may include laws governing attendance, course credit for schoolwork performed outside the classroom or in an apprenticeship setting, and educator certification. By January 1, 2023, the commissioner must submit any recommendations for legislation to, presumably, the Education and Higher Education and Employment Advancement committees.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2022, except the pathways program-related review and reporting provision is effective upon passage.