

**As Re-Referred by the House Rules and Reference Committee**

**135th General Assembly**

**Regular Session**

**2023-2024**

**Am. H. B. No. 312**

**Representatives White, Young, T.**

**Cosponsors: Representatives Seitz, Johnson, Willis, Dobos, Hillyer, Grim, Hall,  
Plummer, Lampton, Creech, Jones, Manning, Miller, J., Williams**

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**A BILL**

To enact section 3301.85 of the Revised Code to 1  
establish the Regional Partnerships Program and 2  
to make an appropriation. 3

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

**Section 1.** That section 3301.85 of the Revised Code be 4  
enacted to read as follows: 5

**Sec. 3301.85.** (A) The department of education and 6  
workforce, in conjunction with the department of higher 7  
education, shall create, administer, and oversee the prenatal- 8  
to-five early childhood to post-secondary regional partnerships 9  
program to support existing and establish new early childhood to 10  
post-secondary regional partnerships throughout Ohio in regions 11  
that choose to participate. Each partnership may consist of 12  
prenatal-to-five early learning programs, primary and secondary 13  
schools, educational service centers, out-of-school time 14  
providers, post-secondary institutions, and workforce and 15  
community partners that are located in the same region and that 16  
are working collaboratively to increase educational attainment 17  
and economic mobility outcomes for children and adults. 18

|                                                                         |    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| <u>(B) The departments shall do both of the following:</u>              | 19 |
| <u>(1) Coordinate and convene a cohort of all existing and</u>          | 20 |
| <u>emerging regional partnerships at least quarterly to share best</u>  | 21 |
| <u>practices and assist in organizational development and growth;</u>   | 22 |
| <u>(2) Distribute grants, in a manner determined by the</u>             | 23 |
| <u>departments, to qualifying partnerships to support regional</u>      | 24 |
| <u>collaboration programs that align educational resources and</u>      | 25 |
| <u>community support with regional in-demand workforce skills,</u>      | 26 |
| <u>opportunities, and jobs;</u>                                         | 27 |
| <u>(3) Work to ensure that at least one regional partnership</u>        | 28 |
| <u>exists within each of the six different regions of the state, as</u> | 29 |
| <u>determined by JobsOhio, as defined in section 187.01 of the</u>      | 30 |
| <u>Revised Code;</u>                                                    | 31 |
| <u>(4) Report the progress and outcomes of each regional</u>            | 32 |
| <u>partnership at least twice a year to the director of education</u>   | 33 |
| <u>and workforce and the chancellor of higher education, and</u>        | 34 |
| <u>annually to the governor and the general assembly.</u>               | 35 |
| <u>(C) (1) Qualifying partnerships eligible to apply for</u>            | 36 |
| <u>grants under this section shall demonstrate all of the</u>           | 37 |
| <u>following:</u>                                                       | 38 |
| <u>(a) An identified theory of action and explicit commitment</u>       | 39 |
| <u>to address all areas of the education and workforce continuum</u>    | 40 |
| <u>over time, including a commitment to measure and report targeted</u> | 41 |
| <u>attainment outcome metrics;</u>                                      | 42 |
| <u>(b) How it will integrate and align its work with business</u>       | 43 |
| <u>advisory councils created under section 3313.82 of the Revised</u>   | 44 |
| <u>Code within the region, the educational regional service system</u>  | 45 |
| <u>established under Chapter 3312. of the Revised Code, industry</u>    | 46 |
| <u>sector partnerships, and other regional educational attainment</u>   | 47 |

efforts as appropriate; 48

(c) How it will work with local health care systems, 49  
service providers, and other stakeholders to better address the 50  
workforce readiness, mental health, and well-being skills 51  
children and young adults need to be successful in and beyond 52  
elementary and secondary school years. 53

(2) Qualifying partnerships shall report all of the 54  
following performance metrics for their region to the department 55  
of education and workforce and the department of higher 56  
education: 57

(a) Kindergarten readiness; 58

(b) Third-grade reading proficiency; 59

(c) Middle grade math proficiency; 60

(d) High school graduation rates; 61

(e) Free application for federal student aid completion 62  
rates; 63

(f) Post-secondary enrollment; 64

(g) Post-secondary credential or degree completion; 65

(h) Employment for their region that includes the 66  
following: 67

(i) Percentage of recent graduates who found employment 68  
within one year of completing a post-secondary credential or 69  
degree; 70

(ii) Percentage of recent graduates who completed some 71  
form of work-based learning while enrolled in a post-secondary 72  
institution. 73

(D) Beginning January 1, 2025, the director and department 74  
of children and youth shall participate in the administration of 75  
prenatal-to-five early childhood to post-secondary regional 76  
partnerships program and the distribution of grants under this 77  
section in conjunction with the departments of education and 78  
workforce and higher education. 79

**Section 2.** All items in this act are hereby appropriated 80  
as designated out of any moneys in the state treasury to the 81  
credit of the designated fund. For all operating appropriations 82  
made in this act, those in the first column are for fiscal year 83  
2024 and those in the second column are for fiscal year 2025. 84  
The operating appropriations made in this act are in addition to 85  
any other operating appropriations made for these fiscal years. 86

**Section 3.** 87

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|   | 1                                                         | 2      | 3                                       | 4           | 5   |
|---|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------|-----------------------------------------|-------------|-----|
| A | EDU DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE                 |        |                                         |             |     |
| B | General Revenue Fund                                      |        |                                         |             |     |
| C | GRF                                                       | 200545 | Career-Technical Education Enhancements | \$2,500,000 | \$0 |
| D | TOTAL GRF General Revenue Fund                            |        |                                         | \$2,500,000 | \$0 |
| E | TOTAL ALL BUDGET FUND GROUPS                              |        |                                         | \$2,500,000 | \$0 |
|   | CAREER-TECHNICAL EDUCATION ENHANCEMENTS                   |        |                                         |             | 89  |
|   | The foregoing appropriation item 200545, Career-Technical |        |                                         |             | 90  |

Education Enhancements, shall be used to support the Prenatal- 91  
to-Five Early Childhood to Post-secondary Regional Partnerships 92  
Program created in section 3301.85 of the Revised Code. 93

An amount equal to the unexpended, unencumbered balance of 94  
the foregoing appropriation item 200545, Career-Technical 95  
Education Enhancements, at the end of fiscal year 2024 is hereby 96  
reappropriated for the same purpose in fiscal year 2025. 97

**Section 4.** Within the limits set forth in this act, the 98  
Director of Budget and Management shall establish accounts 99  
indicating the source and amount of funds for each appropriation 100  
made in this act, and shall determine the manner in which 101  
appropriation accounts shall be maintained. Expenditures from 102  
operating appropriations contained in this act shall be 103  
accounted for as though made in, and are subject to all 104  
applicable provisions of, H.B. 33 of the 135th General Assembly. 105