

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
attendance and graduation rates through
financial awards and incentives, and to make an
appropriation.

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

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

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

(C) The Department shall select participating school districts and schools based on the following criteria:

(1) At least one rural school district must be selected.

(2) At least one urban school district must be selected.

(3) All participating schools must have chronic absenteeism in the highest quartile in the state based on the most recent report cards issued under section 3302.03 of the Revised Code.

(D) Each participating school shall provide a list of its kindergarten and ninth grade students and their parents or guardians to the Department.

(E) The Department shall select participants to receive cash transfer incentives and participants in the control group in one of the following manners:

(1) For each participating school, the Department shall randomly select fifty per cent of kindergarten parents and guardians and fifty per cent of ninth grade students to receive cash transfer incentives. The other fifty per cent of either parents and guardians or students shall serve as the control group.

(2) The Department shall compare applicant school districts and select similar schools to participate in the pilot program. The Department shall then randomly assign half of the participating schools to the cash transfer incentive group and half to the control group.

(F) The Department shall test incentive distribution methods including all of the following:

(1) Cash transfers of \$25 made biweekly during the school

year to participating ninth grade students and the parents or 46
guardians of participating kindergarten students with an 47
attendance rate of ninety per cent or higher for that two-week 48
period; 49

(2) Cash transfers of \$150 at the end of each quarter of 50
the school year to participating ninth grade students and the 51
parents or guardians of participating kindergarten students with 52
an attendance rate of ninety per cent or higher for that 53
quarter; 54

(3) One cash transfer of \$500 at the end of the school 55
year to participating ninth grade students and the parents or 56
guardians of participating kindergarten students with an 57
attendance rate of ninety per cent or higher for that school 58
year. 59

A cash transfer made for a ninth grade student shall be 60
payable jointly to the student and the student's parent or 61
guardian. The Department shall spend the same total amount in 62
cash transfers for each distribution method tested. 63

(G) Each school participating in the pilot program shall 64
submit reports to the Department including all of the following: 65

(1) The participating students in the incentivized group 66
and the control group; 67

(2) The attendance rates of the participating students 68
from the year preceding the start of the pilot program; 69

(3) The attendance rates of the participating students for 70
each month of the pilot program. 71

(H) Any record of the pilot program that includes 72
individual student data is not a public record for the purposes 73

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