

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 2597

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: OCTOBER 1, 2026

The Senate Education Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 2597.

This bill requires the Commissioner of Education to establish a four-year Career and Technical Education Partnership Grant Program. The purpose of the program is to create an incentive program in which grants are awarded to county vocational school districts and other school districts that operate approved career and technical education programs or programs of study, to partner with urban districts, other school districts, county colleges, and other entities to create high-quality career and technical education programs in existing facilities.

Under the bill, the commissioner will develop and administer the grant program. The commissioner will award grants, within the limit of State appropriations, to selected county vocational school districts and other school districts that operate approved career and technical education programs or programs of study to support the development and implementation of a career and technical education program in an existing school or college facility that is not owned or leased by the grant recipient. The commissioner will determine the amount of each grant awarded under the program and may award multi-year grants. The bill specifies the information that will be included in the grant application.

Four years following the grant program's establishment, the commissioner will submit a report to the Governor and the Legislature on the outcomes of the grant program that includes a recommendation on the establishment of a permanent source of funding for such career and technical education partnership programs.

The grant program established pursuant to this bill is modeled on the County Vocational School District Partnership Grant Program established pursuant to P.L.2014, c.73 (C.18A:6-132 et seq.). Grants were provided pursuant to that four-year grant program in FY2015 through FY2018 and were available only to county vocational school districts. The grant program established under this bill would permit school districts that operate approved career and technical education programs or programs of study to also be eligible to receive the grants.

This bill was pre-filed for introduction in the 2026-2027 session pending technical review. As reported, the bill includes the changes required by technical review, which has been performed.