

SENATE, No. 2597

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

222nd LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2026 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator VIN GOPAL

District 11 (Monmouth)

Senator SHIRLEY K. TURNER

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator Singleton

SYNOPSIS

Establishes four-year Career and Technical Education Partnership Grant Program.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Senate Education Committee with technical review.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 10/19/2026)

1 AN ACT establishing a Career and Technical Education Partnership
2 Grant Program in the Department of Education.

3
4 BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6
7 1. The Commissioner of Education shall develop and
8 administer a four-year Career and Technical Education Partnership
9 Grant Program. The purpose of the program shall be to award
10 grants to county vocational school districts and other school
11 districts that operate approved career and technical education
12 programs or programs of study, to partner with urban districts, other
13 school districts, county colleges, and other entities to create high-
14 quality career and technical education programs in existing
15 facilities. The commissioner shall consult with the New Jersey
16 Council of County Vocational Schools and employer
17 representatives regarding the design of the grant program.

18
19 2. a. The commissioner shall award grants, within the limit of
20 available State appropriations, to selected county vocational school
21 districts and other school districts that operate approved career and
22 technical education programs or programs of study, to be used to
23 support the development and implementation of a career and
24 technical education program in an existing school or college facility
25 that is not owned or leased by the county vocational school district
26 or the school district that operates an approved career and technical
27 education program or program of study. The commissioner shall
28 determine the amount of each grant awarded under the program and
29 may award multi-year grants.

30 b. A county vocational school district or school district that
31 operates an approved career and technical education program or
32 program of study that wants to apply for a grant shall submit an
33 application to the commissioner. The application shall include:

34 (1) a description of the career and technical education
35 partnership program to be developed with the grant funding;

36 (2) a description of the partnership with the school district,
37 county college, or other entity that will host the program including,
38 but not limited to, the responsibilities of each partner for providing
39 education and support services to students and teacher supervision
40 and professional development;

41 (3) a description of any partnerships with local employers that
42 will support the proposed career and technical education partnership
43 program by advising on curriculum, offering work-based learning
44 opportunities, providing equipment or resources, or other
45 assistance;

46 (4) the number of students that could be accommodated in the
47 career and technical education partnership program over each of the
48 four years of the grant program and in future years;

- 1 (5) the projected demand for the career and technical education
2 partnership program;
 - 3 (6) an explanation of whether the proposed partnership will
4 replicate an existing approved career and technical education
5 program at the county vocational school or the school district
6 operating an approved career and technical education program or
7 program of study, or if new approval will be sought;
 - 8 (7) the location of the facility in which the partnership program
9 will be located and whether the location is conducive to serving the
10 populations targeted by the career and technical education
11 partnership program;
 - 12 (8) the estimated start-up and initial operational costs of the
13 proposed partnership program, including the cost of any facility
14 repairs or modification, equipment and supplies, curriculum
15 development and materials, and professional salaries;
 - 16 (9) an explanation of why the facilities of the county vocational
17 school district or the school district operating an approved career
18 and technical education program or program of study could not
19 accommodate the new career and technical education program;
 - 20 (10) the plan to sustain the career and technical education
21 partnership program beyond the period of grant funding using other
22 State, federal, and local resources; and
 - 23 (11) any other information that the commissioner deems
24 appropriate.
25
- 26 3. The commissioner shall submit a report to the Governor, and
27 the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164
28 (C.52:14-19.1), four years after the establishment of the Career and
29 Technical Education Partnership Grant Program. The report shall
30 include, but not be limited to, information on the number of grant
31 applicants, the number of grant awards, the number of career and
32 technical education partnership programs established under the
33 grant program, the number of students who completed the career
34 and technical education partnership programs established under the
35 grant program, the costs and any savings realized through the
36 sharing of facilities under the grant program, and a recommendation
37 on the establishment of a permanent source of funding for such
38 career and technical education partnership programs.
39
- 40 4. This act shall take effect immediately.