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H.B. 312
135th General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for H.B. 312's Bill Analysis](#)

Version: As Re-referred to House Finance

Primary Sponsors: Reps. White and Young

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

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Highlights

- The bill appropriates \$2.5 million from the GRF in FY 2024 for the Department of Education and Workforce (DEW) to support the Prenatal-to-Five Early Childhood to Post-secondary Regional Partnerships Program and reappropriates the available balance of that appropriation at the end of FY 2024 for the same purpose in FY 2025.
- The bill may increase the administrative costs of DEW and the Department of Higher Education to develop and implement the program.
- School districts, other public schools, and state institutions of higher education that choose to participate in the program will incur costs to carry out their regional partnership's activities. Presumably, most or all of these costs will be offset by the state grants supported by the bill's appropriation.

Detailed Analysis

Overview

The bill creates the Prenatal-to-Five Early Childhood to Post-secondary Regional Partnerships Program to support and establish early childhood to post-secondary regional partnerships across the state to increase educational attainment and economic mobility outcomes for children and adults. A partnership must consist of prenatal-to-five early learning programs, primary and secondary schools, out-of-school time providers, post-secondary institutions, and workforce and community partners that are located in the same region. The Department of Education and Workforce (DEW), in conjunction with the Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE), will be responsible for administering the program, including distributing grants to eligible applicants. Beginning January 1, 2025, the bill requires the Department of Children and Youth to join the collaboration.

In essence, the bill codifies and renames the Regional Education Partnership Grant Program. The General Assembly funded this program with \$2 million in federal American Rescue Plan Act funds appropriated for FY 2022 in H.B. 169 of the 134th General Assembly. DEW used the funds to distribute grants to support regional collaboration pilot programs among early learning, primary and secondary schools, post-secondary institutions, and workforce partners that align educational resources with regional in-demand jobs and workforce skills. According to DEW, the grants supported 11 partnerships. These partnerships and their managing partner (per DEW, the entity coordinating and leading the partnership's work on a daily basis) are listed in the "Appendix" at the end of this fiscal note.

Program funding

The bill appropriates \$2.5 million in FY 2024 from GRF line item 200545, Career-Technical Education Enhancements, for DEW to support the Prenatal-to-Five Early Childhood to Post-secondary Regional Partnerships Program. The bill reappropriates the available balance of this appropriation at the end of FY 2024 for the same purpose in FY 2025. Presumably, most or all of the appropriation will be distributed as grants to support existing partnerships and establish new ones. The bill requires DEW and ODHE to work to ensure that at least one partnership exists within each of the six different regions determined by JobsOhio. Partnerships applying for the grant program must be able to demonstrate their commitment to addressing all areas of the education and workforce continuum over time, including a commitment to measure and report targeted attainment outcome metrics, as well as how it will align its mission and work with other entities in the region relating to education, business, and health. Each qualifying partnership will then be required to report on the region's performance metrics in a range of specified areas. The bill provides discretion to DEW and ODHE in determining the amount of the grants. As a point of reference, DEW set the maximum grant award for the Regional Education Partnership Grant Program at \$200,000 for new or emerging partnerships and \$150,000 for established partnerships. The bill does not require local matching funds in order to receive a grant. However, it is worth noting that, when evaluating Regional Education Partnership Grant Program applications, DEW awarded bonus points to applicants that contributed matching funds.

The bill does not specify whether DEW may use a portion for any costs that DEW and ODHE may incur to develop and administer the program. Administrative functions required by the bill consist of convening quarterly meetings of a cohort of regional partnerships to discuss best practices, grant administration, and reporting the program's progress and outcomes.

School districts, other public schools, and state institutions of higher education that choose to participate in the partnerships will incur costs associated with facilitating their partnership's activities, as well as reporting on the performance metrics for their region. The bill gives qualifying applicants flexibility in how they operate their regional partnerships, so costs may vary depending on the partnership's services and activities. Presumably, most or all of these costs will be offset by the grants the partnerships receive. As another point of reference, Regional Education Partnership grant recipients were able to use the funds for (1) staffing and professional development, (2) membership into national networks focused on increasing educational attainment, (3) facility rental and virtual tools to host partnership activities, (4) strategic planning facilitators or project management support, (5) development of communication materials, (6) services and programming for students, (7) professional learning opportunities for educators,

employers, and other community members, (8) data analytics and data sharing, (9) limited technology or software needs, and (10) other uses approved by DEW.

Appendix

H.B. 169 Regional Education Partnership Grant Recipients	
Partnership	Managing Partner
Learn to Earn Dayton	Learn to Earn Dayton
Pickaway Works Regional Education Partnership	Pickaway WORKS
Office for Advancing Strategy Partnerships Institutional Relations and Economy (ASPIRE)	Miami University
Cradle to Career Cincinnati	YMCA of Greater Cincinnati
Southern Ohio K-6 Careers	Ohio Valley Educational Service Center
Fairfield 33 Development Alliance	Fairfield County Economic and Workforce Development
West Central Ohio Regional Education Partnership	Edison State Community College
Northwest Ohio Regional Education Partners	Toledo Tomorrow
East Central Ohio Regional Partnership	Cambridge Area YMCA Family Center
Gallia-Jackson-Vinton-Meigs Regional Partnership	Gallia Jackson Vinton JVSD
Summit Education Initiative	Summit Education Initiative