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H.B. 119
136th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Williams and Santucci

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SUMMARY

- Designates September as “Workforce Development Month.”
- Requires each public school to annually host an exit orientation program for 11th and 12th grade students to prepare them to enter the workforce, obtain marketable skills, or enroll in higher education or military service.
- Requires each local workforce development board to actively participate in planning and conducting the program at each high school under its local area.
- Requires each OhioMeansJobs center operator to ensure each exit orientation program in its area is aligned with the needs and opportunities of the local labor market.
- Requires the Department of Education and Workforce to adopt rules and guidelines for the exit orientation program.
- Entitles the bill as the Graduation Readiness and Development (GRAD) Act.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

The bill designates the month of September as “Workforce Development Month” and requires each school district or school to host an exit orientation program annually in that month. The program is designed to prepare 11th and 12th grade students to enter the workforce, obtain marketable skills, or enroll in higher education or military service. Each community school, STEM school, and college-preparatory boarding school must comply with the provisions of the bill as if it is a school district.¹

¹ R.C. 5.2322, 3314.475(A) and (B), 3314.03(A)(11)(d), 3326.11, and 3328.24.

The exit orientation program must be held during one school day at each high school in the district. Districts with multiple high schools must endeavor to schedule each school's program on a different school day. The bill requires a district or school to permit representatives of labor organizations, military branches, workforce training providers, vocational training providers, local chambers of commerce, and private businesses to present information on jobs, trainings, apprenticeships, and related topics to students during the program.²

Each local workforce development board must actively participate in the planning and execution of the program at each high school under its local area and present on workforce development programs offered or funded by the board. Furthermore, each OhioMeansJobs center operator is required under the bill to ensure that the exit orientation programs of each high school in its local area are aligned with the needs and opportunities of the local labor market. The center operator must provide each district or school with information on these local labor market needs and assist with coordinating participation in the program by local chambers of commerce and businesses.³

The bill requires the Department of Education and Workforce to adopt rules and guidelines for the exit orientation program no later than June 1, 2026. The rules and guidelines must include:⁴

1. Instruction on federal student loans;
2. Instruction on federal and state grant programs for higher education;
3. Instruction on local internship and apprenticeships offered by labor union organizations and associations;
4. Information on the Individual Microcredential Assistance Program (IMAP), training programs created under the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, and other free federal or state programs allowing participants to obtain marketable skills;
5. Information on local technical and vocational training providers;
6. Information on voter registration and the voting process;
7. Information on enlistment in military service;
8. Information on local employment opportunities;
9. Information on local programs provided by the Department of Job and Family Services to obtain gainful employment;
10. Information on local healthcare clinics and facilities;
11. Information on local sexually transmitted disease testing facilities.

² R.C. 3313.475(B) and (C).

³ R.C. 3313.475(D) and (E).

⁴ R.C. 3313.475(A).

The bill requires each school district or school to comply with the rules and guidelines adopted by the Department in developing and hosting its exit orientation program.⁵

Any regulatory restriction contained in a rule adopted by the Department regarding exit orientation programs is not subject to S.B. 9 of the 134th General Assembly, which requires rules to be rescinded for each new rule adopted.⁶

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	02-24-25

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⁵ R.C. 3313.475(B).

⁶ R.C. 3313.475(F).