

## **Career Technical Education for Secondary Students; Technical College Boards; At-Risk Students; High-Density At-Risk Pupil Weighting; SB 155**

**SB 155** concerns career technical education for secondary students, amends the powers and duties of technical college boards by allowing the technical college boards to acquire property by lease-purchase, makes changes to the school finance formula related to at-risk students, and revises the provision in the school finance law concerning the calculation of the high-density at-risk pupil weighting.

### ***Career Technical Education***

The bill requires the State Board of Education (State Board) to conduct or contract for a study of the implementation of a new requirement that each school district maintain an individual career plan of study for each student enrolled in grades 8 through 12. The State Board must submit findings from the study to the Legislature by January 15, 2014. This provision will go into effect on July 1, 2013. The State Board also is required to report to the Legislature by January 15, 2014, regarding a proposed strategy and a proposed plan for providing state aid to career technical education programs or courses in school districts and shall consider the funding scheme under the Postsecondary Tiered Technical Education State Aid Act.

The bill also requires the State Board of Regents to establish a career technical education incentive program, which will award \$1,000, subject to appropriation, to a school district for each high school graduate who graduates from that district with an industry-recognized credential in a high-need occupation, as identified by the Secretary of Labor, in consultation with the State Board of Regents and the State Board. The bill allows the State Board of Regents to adopt rules and regulations necessary to administer the program. A school district must reimburse a pupil who has not obtained a high school diploma and is currently or previously was enrolled in a career technical education course or program in the district an amount up to half of the cost of the industry-recognized credential assessment (assessment). This reimbursement will be taken out of the \$1,000 incentive award to the school district. No school district will be required to pay for three or more assessments for the same or substantially the same credential if the pupil fails to earn the credential within two attempts of taking the assessment. After payment for assessments, the school district is allowed to use any remaining portion of the \$1,000 award for the district's operating expenses.

The same provisions apply to students from a private secondary school, attending a community or technical college or institute of technology, except that the State Board of Regents must reimburse a community or technical college or institute of technology for payment of the cost of assessments up to \$1,000 per student. The bill also clarifies that the State Board of Regents is required to distribute state funds to community colleges, technical colleges, and the Institute of Technology at Washburn University for the costs associated with secondary students enrolled at postsecondary career technical educational programs, to the extent sufficient moneys are appropriated to the program.

The bill allows the governing board of a community college, technical college, or institute of technology to apply to the State Board of Regents for permission to establish a career technical education program outside of the institution's service area if the program is not currently being offered in that service area. The provisions of this section go into effect on July 1, 2013.

High school students admitted to a vocational education course or program conducted by a community college, technical college, or institute of technology may be charged fees, but not tuition. Tuition for secondary career technical education students is subject to appropriation.

The bill requires the State Board of Regents to initiate the development of a statewide articulation agreement on career technical education programs among high schools, community colleges, technical colleges, and the Institute of Technology at Washburn University. This provision goes into effect on July 1, 2013.

The bill maintains the vocational education program weighting of 0.5 which is used to compute the full-time equivalent enrollment in any approved vocational education program, with no sunset on this provision.

### ***Technical College Boards' Ability to Acquire Property by Lease-Purchase***

Additionally, the bill amends the powers and duties of technical college boards by allowing the boards to acquire any property by lease-purchase which is necessary or desirable for technical college purposes. The lease-purchase agreement is limited to ten years, may provide for annual or other payment of rent or rental fees, including maintenance or other expenses, and is subject to change or termination at any time by the Legislature; the agreement must contain a clause containing such termination language.

### ***At-Risk Students***

The bill also makes changes to the school finance formula related to at-risk students. If a student submits an application for free meals under the National School Lunch Act, and it is later determined that the student should not have been eligible, the school district or the State Department of Education must notify the State Board. After the notification, the State Board must recompute the general fund budget of the school district based upon the adjusted enrollment, excluding the at-risk student. The amount of state aid to the affected district is adjusted accordingly.

In addition, if a student became ineligible to receive free meals under the National School Lunch Act for failure to submit, in a timely manner, documentation necessary for verification of eligibility, the district has until January 14 of the school year to submit the student's required documentation and avoid exclusion from the district's at-risk student count.

This portion of the bill becomes effective in school year 2012–13.

### ***High-Density At-Risk Pupil Weighting***

Finally, the bill provides for a linear transition formula to calculate the high-density at-risk pupil weighting for districts having between 35.0 percent and 50.0 percent at-risk pupils. For those districts having an at-risk pupil percentage of 50.0 percent or more, or for districts having an enrollment of at least 35.1 percent at-risk pupils and an enrollment density of at least 212.1 pupils per square mile, the district will multiply the number of at-risk pupils by 0.105 to determine the high-density at-risk weighting. For those districts having between 35.0 percent to less than 50.0 percent at-risk pupils, the district will subtract 35.0 percent from the percentage of at-risk enrollment in the district and multiply that result by 0.7. The product of this calculation multiplied by the at-risk student enrollment is the high density at-risk weighting.