

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2013**

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HOUSE BILL 902

Short Title: Education and Workforce Innovation Act. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Johnson, Horn, Tolson, and Langdon (Primary Sponsors).
For a complete list of Sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly Web Site.

Referred to: Education.

April 15, 2013

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT TO CREATE THE EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE INNOVATION ACT.
The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. Legislative Findings and Purpose.

The General Assembly finds that:

- (1) The Education and Workforce Innovation Act will accelerate progress toward high academic rigor and skills development with the goal of graduating every student both college and career ready.
- (2) The increased demand for a highly educated workforce requires North Carolina to prepare students to compete in the global economy.
- (3) It is the policy of the State to graduate all of its students ready for career and college.
- (4) Educational outcomes improve when there is coordination among K-12 schools, universities, and community colleges. In addition, industry partnerships with these public schools enrich student learning and better prepare students for careers and college.
- (5) The increased cooperative or shared use of resources, personnel, and facilities between public schools, community colleges, and universities creates budget efficiencies.
- (6) North Carolina's economy benefits when high school students are given the opportunity to take higher level education classes to develop skills in occupations with high employment potential.
- (7) A skills gap exists in the State and is expected to exist in occupations relying on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.
- (8) It is the policy of the State to encourage businesses and business leaders to participate in the improvement of our public schools by forming long-term partnerships with local school administrative units to integrate career relevance training with academic curriculum.
- (9) The Act is designed to stimulate economic activity through quality education.
- (10) It is the intent of the General Assembly that grants provided through this act be used to create innovative education programs that reshape classrooms, allow high school students to earn valued industry credentials or up to two years of college credit, provide comprehensive teacher professional development, and create scalable models of success in education.



1 **SECTION 2.** There is created the North Carolina Education and Workforce
2 Innovation Commission.

3 **SECTION 3.** The Commission shall be located administratively in the Department
4 of Public Instruction but shall exercise all its prescribed powers independently of the
5 Department of Public Instruction. The Commission shall consist of the following 11 members:

- 6 (1) The Secretary of Commerce.
- 7 (2) The State Superintendent of Public Instruction.
- 8 (3) The Chair of the State Board of Education.
- 9 (4) The President of The University of North Carolina.
- 10 (5) The President of the North Carolina Community College System.
- 11 (6) Two members appointed by the Governor who have experience in education.
- 12 (7) Two members appointed by the General Assembly upon recommendation of
13 the Speaker of the House of Representatives, as provided in G.S. 120-121
14 who have experience in businesses operating in North Carolina.
- 15 (8) Two members appointed by the General Assembly upon the
16 recommendation of the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, as provided in
17 G.S. 120-121 who have experience in businesses operating in North
18 Carolina.

19 **SECTION 4.** The Commission members shall elect a chair from the membership
20 of the Commission. The Commission shall meet at least three times annually on the call of the
21 Chair or as additionally provided by the Commission. A quorum is five members of the
22 Commission. Members may not send designees to Commission meetings, nor may they vote by
23 proxy. Appointments to the Commission shall be made by the appointing entity no later than
24 September 1, 2013. The Commission shall hold its first meeting no later than October 1, 2013.

25 **SECTION 5.** The Commission shall develop and administer the Education and
26 Workforce Program created in Section 6 of this bill and make awards of grants under the
27 Program. The Commission shall work closely with the North Carolina New Schools in
28 administering the program. In addition, the Commission shall publish a report on the Education
29 and Workforce Innovation Grant Program on or before April 30 of each year. The Report shall
30 include: an accounting of how funds and personnel resources were utilized and their impact on
31 student achievement, retention, and employability; recommended statutory and policy changes;
32 and recommendations for improvement of the program. The Report shall be submitted to the
33 Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee, the State Board of Education, the State
34 Board of Community Colleges, and the Board of Governors of The University of North
35 Carolina. The Commission shall also conduct a study to determine the most efficient way to
36 fund dual enrollment for high school students in college coursework. The Committee shall
37 report the results of this study to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee by
38 October 1, 2014.

39 **SECTION 6.** The Education and Workforce Innovation Program.

- 40 (1) Program. – There is established the Education and Workforce Innovation
41 Program, to foster innovation in education that will lead to more students
42 graduating career and college ready. Funds appropriated to the Program shall
43 be used to award competitive grants to an individual school, a local school
44 administrative unit, or a regional partnership of more than one local school
45 administrative unit to advance comprehensive, high-quality education that
46 equips teachers with the knowledge and skill required to succeed with all
47 students. Before receiving a grant, all applicants must meet all of the
48 following conditions:
 - 49 a. Form a partnership, for the purposes of the grant, with either a public
50 or private university or a community college.

- 1 b. Form a partnership, for the purposes of the grant, with regional
2 businesses and business leaders.
- 3 c. Demonstrate the ability to sustain innovation once grant funding
4 ends.
- 5 (2) Applicant categories and specific requirements.
- 6 a. Individual schools. – Individual public schools must demonstrate all
7 of the following in their applications:
- 8 1. Partnerships with business and industry to determine the
9 skills and competencies needed for students' transition into
10 growth sectors of the regional economy.
- 11 2. Aligned pathways to employment, including students'
12 acquisition of college credit or industry recognized
13 credentials.
- 14 3. Development of systems, infrastructure, capacity, and culture
15 to enable teachers and school leaders to continuously focus
16 on improving individual student achievement.
- 17 b. Local School Administrative Units. – Local school administrative
18 units must demonstrate all of the following in their applications:
- 19 1. Implementation of comprehensive reform and innovation.
- 20 2. Appointment of a senior leader to manage and sustain the
21 change process with a specific focus on providing parents
22 with a portfolio of meaningful options among schools.
- 23 c. Regional partnerships of two or more local school administrative
24 units. – Partnerships of two or more local school administrative units
25 must demonstrate all of the following in their applications:
- 26 1. Implementation of resources of partnered local school
27 administrative units in creating a tailored workforce
28 development system for the regional economy and seed
29 innovation in each of the partnered local school
30 administrative units.
- 31 2. Promotion of the development of knowledge and skills in
32 career clusters of critical importance to the region.
- 33 3. Capitalization on the shared strengths of local businesses and
34 higher education.
- 35 4. Usage of technology to deliver instruction over large
36 geographic regions and build networks with industry.
- 37 5. Implementation of comprehensive reform and innovation that
38 can be replicated in other local school administrative units.
- 39 (3) General factors considered in awarding of grants. – All applications must do
40 all of the following in order to be considered for a grant:
- 41 a. Describe the aligned pathways from school to high-growth careers in
42 regional economies.
- 43 b. Leverage technology to efficiently and effectively drive teacher and
44 principal development, connect students and teachers to online
45 courses and resources and foster virtual learning communities among
46 faculty, higher education partners, and business partners.
- 47 c. Establish a comprehensive approach to enhancing the knowledge and
48 skills of teachers and administrators to successfully implement the
49 proposed innovative program and to graduate all students ready for
50 work and college.

- 1 d. Link to a proven provider of professional development services for
2 teachers and administrators capable of providing evidence-based
3 training and tools aligned with the goals of the proposed innovative
4 program.
- 5 e. Form explicit partnerships with businesses and industry, which may
6 include business advisory councils, internship programs, and other
7 customized projects aligned with relevant workforce skills.
- 8 f. Partner with community colleges or public or private universities to
9 enable communities to challenge every student to graduate with
10 workplace credentials or college credit.
- 11 g. Align K-12 and post-secondary instruction and performance
12 expectations to reduce the need for college remediation courses.
- 13 h. Secure input from parents to foster broad ownership for school
14 choice options and to foster greater understanding of the need for
15 continued education beyond high school.
- 16 i. Provide a description of the funds that will be used and a proposed
17 budget for five years.
- 18 j. A description of the matching funds required in subdivision (4) of
19 this section.
- 20 (4) Matching private and local funds. – All funds appropriated by the State must
21 be matched by a combination of private and local funds. All grant applicants
22 must fund twenty-five percent (25%) of program costs through local funds.
23 An additional twenty-five percent (25%) of program costs must be raised by
24 private funds statewide.
- 25 (5) Grants. – Any grants awarded by the Commission may be spent over a five
26 year period from the initial award.
- 27 (6) Reporting requirements. – No later than March 1 of each year, a grant
28 recipient shall submit to the Commission an annual report for the preceding
29 grant year that describes the academic progress made by the students.
- 30 **SECTION 7.** This act is effective when it becomes law.