

STRENGTHENING COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS

2015 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Patrice M. Arent

Senate Sponsor: Stephen H. Urquhart

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill creates a program to provide grants to local education agencies for professional development for school counselors.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ defines terms;
- ▶ creates the Strengthening College and Career Readiness Program, a grant program for local education agencies, to improve students' college and career readiness through enhancing the skill level of school counselors to provide college and career counseling;
- ▶ directs the State Board of Education to:
 - develop a certificate for school counselors that certifies that a school counselor is highly skilled at providing college and career counseling;
 - award grants to local education agencies, on a competitive basis, for payment of course fees for courses required to earn the certificate;
 - make rules; and
 - report to the Education Interim Committee.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

This bill appropriates in fiscal year 2016:

- ▶ to the State Board of Education - State Office of Education, as a one-time



28 appropriation:

- 29 • from the Education Fund, One-time, \$440,000

30 **Other Special Clauses:**

31 This bill provides a special effective date.

32 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

33 ENACTS:

34 **53A-15-1501**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

36 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

37 Section 1. Section **53A-15-1501** is enacted to read:

38 **53A-15-1501. Initiative to strengthen college and career readiness.**

39 (1) As used in this section:

40 (a) "College and career counseling" means:

41 (i) nurturing college and career aspirations;

42 (ii) assisting students in planning an academic program that connects to college and
43 career goals;

44 (iii) providing early and ongoing exposure to information necessary to make informed
45 decisions when selecting a college and career;

46 (iv) promoting participation in college and career assessments;

47 (v) providing financial aid information; and

48 (vi) increasing understanding about college admission processes.

49 (b) "LEA" or "local education agency" means a school district or charter school.

50 (2) There is created the Strengthening College and Career Readiness Program, a grant
51 program for LEAs, to improve students' college and career readiness through enhancing the
52 skill level of school counselors to provide college and career counseling.

53 (3) The State Board of Education shall:

54 (a) on or before August 1, 2015, collaborate with the Board of Regents, and business,
55 community, and education stakeholders to develop a certificate for school counselors that:

56 (i) certifies that a school counselor is highly skilled at providing college and career
57 counseling; and

58 (ii) is aligned with the Utah Comprehensive Counseling and Guidance Program as

59 defined in rules established by the State Board of Education;

60 (b) subject to legislative appropriations, award grants to LEAs, on a competitive basis,
61 for payment of course fees for courses required to earn the certificate developed by the State
62 Board of Education under Subsection (3)(a); and

63 (c) in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Administrative Rulemaking Act, make
64 rules specifying:

65 (i) procedures for applying for and awarding grants under this section;

66 (ii) criteria for awarding grants; and

67 (iii) reporting requirements for grantees.

68 (4) An LEA that receives a grant under this section shall use the grant for payment of
69 course fees for courses required to attain the certificate as determined by the State Board of
70 Education under Subsection (3)(a).

71 (5) The State Board of Education shall report to the Education Interim Committee on
72 the status of the Strengthening College and Career Readiness Program on or before:

73 (a) November 1, 2016; and

74 (b) November 1, 2017.

75 **Section 2. Appropriation.**

76 Under the terms and conditions of Title 63J, Chapter 1, Budgetary Procedures Act, for
77 the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2015, and ending June 30, 2016, the following sums of money
78 are appropriated from resources not otherwise appropriated, or reduced from amounts
79 previously appropriated, out of the funds or accounts indicated. These sums of money are in
80 addition to any amounts previously appropriated for fiscal year 2016.

81 To State Board of Education – State Office of Education – Initiative Programs
82 From Education Fund, One-time \$440,000

83 Schedule of Programs:

84 Contracts and Grants – Strengthening College and
85 Career Readiness Pilot Program \$440,000

86 The Legislature intends that:

87 (1) The State Office of Education expend appropriations under this section in fiscal
88 years 2016, 2017, and 2018; and

89 (2) Under [63J-1-603](#), appropriations provided under this section not lapse.

90 Section 3. **Effective date.**

91 (1) Except as provided in Subsection (2), this bill takes effect on May 12, 2015.

92 (2) Uncodified Section 2, Appropriation, takes effect on July 1, 2015.

Legislative Review Note
as of 1-28-15 12:14 PM

Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel