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EDUCATION COMPUTING PATHWAYS

2017 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Ralph Okerlund

House Sponsor: Bradley G. Last

Cosponsor: Howard A. Stephenson

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill creates the Computing Pathways Grants program.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ creates the Computing Pathways Grants program, administered by the STEM

Action Center;

- ▶ authorizes the STEM Action Center to work with the State Board of Education to:

- adopt rules for the administration of the grant program;
- establish a grant application process; and
- establish a review committee; and

- ▶ requires the STEM Action Center to annually report on the grant program to the

Education Interim Committee.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:



27 [63N-12-202](#), as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2015, Chapter 283

28 ENACTS:

29 [63N-12-214](#), Utah Code Annotated 1953



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

32 Section 1. Section [63N-12-202](#) is amended to read:

33 **[63N-12-202. Definitions.](#)**

34 As used in this part:

35 (1) "Board" means the STEM Action Center Board created in Section [63N-12-203](#).

36 (2) "Computing pathways" means a set of skills, knowledge, and aptitudes used in
37 computer science, information technology, or computer engineering courses and career options.

38 ~~[(2)]~~ (3) "Educator" ~~[has the same meaning as]~~ means the same as that term is defined
39 in Section [53A-6-103](#).

40 (4) "Grant program" means the Computing Pathways Grants program created in this
41 part.

42 ~~[(3)]~~ (5) "High quality professional development" means professional development that
43 meets high quality standards developed by the State Board of Education.

44 (6) "Institution of higher education" means an institution listed in Section [53B-1-102](#).

45 (7) "K-16" means kindergarten through grade 12 and post-secondary education
46 programs.

47 ~~[(4)]~~ (8) "Office" means the Governor's Office of Economic Development.

48 ~~[(5)]~~ (9) "Provider" means a provider, selected by staff of the board and staff of the
49 Utah State Board of Education, on behalf of the board:

50 (a) through a request for proposals process; or

51 (b) through a direct award or sole source procurement process for a pilot described in
52 Section [63N-12-206](#).

53 (10) "Review committee" means the committee established under Section [63N-12-214](#).

54 (11) "Stacked credentials" means credentials that:

55 (a) an individual can build upon to access an advanced job or higher wage;

56 (b) are part of a career pathway system;

57 (c) provide a pathway culminating in the equivalent of an associate's or bachelor's

58 degree;

59 (d) facilitate multiple exit and entry points; and

60 (e) recognize sub-goals or momentum points.

61 ~~[(6)]~~ (12) "STEM" means science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

62 ~~[(7)]~~ (13) "STEM Action Center" means the center described in Section [63N-12-205](#).

63 Section 2. Section **63N-12-214** is enacted to read:

64 **63N-12-214. Computing Pathways Grants program.**

65 (1) There is created the Computing Pathways Grants program consisting of the grants
66 created in this part to provide for the design and implementation of a comprehensive K-16
67 computing pathways program, based upon the following common elements:

68 (a) outreach and student engagement;

69 (b) courses and content;

70 (c) instruction and instructional support;

71 (d) work-based learning opportunities;

72 (e) student retention;

73 (f) industry engagement;

74 (g) stacked credentials that allow for multiple exit and entry points;

75 (h) competency-based learning strategies; and

76 (i) secondary and post-secondary collaborations.

77 (2) The grant program shall incentivize public schools and school districts to work
78 with the STEM Action Center, staff of the State Board of Education, industry representatives,
79 and secondary partners on the design and implementation of comprehensive K-16 computing
80 pathways through:

81 (a) leveraging existing resources for content, professional learning, and instruction,
82 including existing career and technical education funds, programs, and initiatives;

83 (b) allowing for the support of professional learning for pre- and in-service educators;

84 (c) supporting activities that promote and enhance access, diversity, and equity;

85 (d) supporting collaborations and partnerships between K-12, higher education,
86 cultural and community partners, and industry representatives;

87 (e) identifying the appropriate credentials that align with industry needs and providing
88 the credentials in a stacked credentials pathway;

89 (f) implementing a collaborative network that enables sharing and identification of best
90 practices; and

91 (g) providing infrastructure assistance that allows for the support of new courses and
92 the expansion of capacity for existing courses.

93 (3) The grant program shall include the following:

94 (a) rigorous and relevant metrics that are shared by all grant participants;

95 (b) an evaluation by the STEM Action Center of the grant program that identifies best
96 practices; and

97 (c) a full-time staff person to oversee the implementation of the grant program.

98 (4) The STEM Action Center, in consultation with the State Board of Education, shall:

99 (a) in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act,
100 adopt rules:

101 (i) for the administration of the grant program and awarding of grants; and

102 (ii) that define outcome-based measures appropriate to the type of grant awarded under
103 this part;

104 (b) establish a grant application process;

105 (c) in accordance with Subsection (5), establish a review committee to make
106 recommendations for:

107 (i) metrics to analyze the quality of a grant application;

108 (ii) approval of a grant application; and

109 (iii) criteria to establish a requirement for an applicant to demonstrate financial need;

110 and

111 (d) with input from the review committee, adopt metrics to analyze the quality of a
112 grant application.

113 (5) (a) The review committee shall consist of K-16 educators, staff of the State Board
114 of Education, post-secondary partners, and industry representatives.

115 (b) The review committee shall:

116 (i) review a grant application submitted;

117 (ii) make recommendations to a grant applicant to modify the grant application, if
118 necessary; and

119 (iii) make recommendations regarding the final disposition of an application.

120 (6) The board may use up to 5% of an appropriation provided to fund this part for
121 administration of the grant program.

122 (7) The STEM Action Center shall report annually on the grant program to the State
123 Board of Education and any findings and recommendations on the grant program shall be
124 included in the STEM Action Center annual report to the Education Interim Committee.

Legislative Review Note
Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel