

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION encouraging the Kentucky Board of Education to continue and expand collaboration with the Council on Postsecondary Education, the Education Professional Standards Board, the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce, and industry interests to develop and align policies and practices to support strong career pathways that help more students earn industry and postsecondary credentials and obtain good jobs.

WHEREAS, nonpartisan research reveals that in the twenty-first century United States economy, nearly two-thirds of all jobs require education and training beyond high school; and

WHEREAS, the fastest growing sector of jobs is in fields such as advanced manufacturing, energy, healthcare, information technology, science, technology, engineering, and mathematics; and

WHEREAS, according to the United States Census Bureau in 2012, only 31 percent of Kentuckians aged 25-64 had a postsecondary credential of any sort; and

WHEREAS, low educational attainment harms individuals, local communities, and the Commonwealth's economy; and

WHEREAS, in the rapidly evolving workforce and economic environment, the Commonwealth must act proactively to enable students to earn credentials and degrees in the right fields for today's economy in a manner that is effective, efficient, and measurable; and

WHEREAS, the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) Commission on Career and Technical Education, previously chaired by former Governor Steve Beshear, and with membership from all the SREB states, including Senator Mike Wilson, chair of the Senate Education Committee and Representative Derrick Graham, chair of the House Education Committee, issued a report in April 2015 calling for action and outlining performance goals and policies to address this pressing need;

NOW, THEREFORE,

Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, the House of Representatives concurring therein:

➔Section 1. The Kentucky Board of Education is encouraged to continue its collaboration with the Council on Postsecondary Education, the Education Professional Standards Board, the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce, and industry interests to develop and align policies and practices to support strong career pathways that help more students earn industry and postsecondary credentials and obtain good jobs, with efforts that include but are not limited to:

- (1) Further review of the SREB report, *Credentials for All: An Imperative for SREB States*, for the purpose of:
 - (a) Increasing the percentage of young adults earning valuable industry and postsecondary credentials and degrees and securing high-skill, high-wage jobs by age 25; and
 - (b) Expanding the number of secondary and postsecondary students who participate in progressively intensive employer-sponsored work-based learning experiences;
- (2) Further development of policies that focus upon:
 - (a) Aligning three stages of learning – secondary, postsecondary, and the workplace – through strategies like dual enrollment and work-based learning;
 - (b) Combining college-ready academic core with challenging technical studies and requiring students to complete real-world assignments;
 - (c) Allowing students to choose accelerated learning options in settings that provide the extended time needed to earn advanced industry credentials;
 - (d) Providing all high school career pathway teachers, especially new teachers from industry, with the professional development and fast-track induction programs they need to meet high academic, technical, and pedagogical standards and enhance students' academic readiness for college and careers;

- (e) Incentivizing community and technical colleges and school districts to increase the percentage of students who earn certificates, credentials, and degrees by setting statewide readiness standards and aligning assessment and placement measures with those standards; and
 - (f) Designing accountability systems that recognize and reward districts, high schools, technology centers, and community and technical colleges that double the number of young adults who acquire postsecondary credentials and secure high-skill, high-wage jobs by age 25; and
- (3) Further refinement of recommendations to institutions dedicated to:
- (a) Creating guidance systems that include career information, exploration, and advisement and that engage students in ongoing career and college counseling beginning in the middle grades; and
 - (b) Offering early advanced credential programs in shared-time technology centers, and aligning their curricula, instruction, and technology with local high schools and community and technical colleges.

➔Section 2. The Kentucky Board of Education is encouraged to continue to provide regular reports on progress and implementation efforts to the Legislative Research Commission, the Interim Joint Committee on Education, and the Interim Joint Committee on Appropriations and Revenue as often as the chairs of the respective committees desire.

➔Section 3. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to send a copy of this Resolution to Dr. Stephen Pruitt, Commissioner, Kentucky Department of Education, 500 Mero Street, First Floor CPT, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601; Mr. Robert King, President, Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education, 1024 Capital Center Drive #320, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601; Mr. Jimmy Adams, Executive Director, Education Professional Standards Board, 100 Airport Road, Third Floor, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601; and Mr. Dave Adkisson, President and Chief Executive Officer, Kentucky

Chamber of Commerce, 464 Chenault Road, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601.