

Chapter 281

(Senate Bill 33)

AN ACT concerning

**More Opportunities for Career-Focused Students Act of 2024**

FOR the purpose of ~~requiring certain county boards of education to consider the pursuit of certain certificates, certifications, or apprenticeships as the equivalent of pursuing postsecondary education and provide a method for certain individuals to authorize the release of certain student information to certain apprenticeship sponsors and employers;~~ requiring each public high school to inform students of certain employment and skills training opportunities in a certain manner; requiring a county board to ~~pay for a student to take an apprenticeship entrance exam or industrial certification exam under certain circumstances~~ *assist public high schools in a certain task*; and generally relating to career education ~~and apprenticeship opportunities.~~

BY adding to

Article – Education  
Section 4–142  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

~~BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,~~

~~Article – Education  
Section 7–203.1  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)~~

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

**Article – Education**

**4–142.**

~~(A) IN THIS SECTION, “PLATFORM” MEANS A COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS SOFTWARE PROGRAM THAT HELPS SCHOOL SYSTEMS AND SCHOOLS ALIGN STUDENT STRENGTHS AND INTERESTS TO POSTSECONDARY GOALS AND CAREERS.~~

~~(B) A COUNTY BOARD THAT USES A PLATFORM SHALL:~~

~~(1) CONSIDER THE PURSUIT OF A VOCATIONAL CERTIFICATE, AN INDUSTRY CERTIFICATION, OR AN APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM AS THE EQUIVALENT OF PURSUING POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION; AND~~

~~(2) PROVIDE IN THE PLATFORM A METHOD FOR A STUDENT OR A STUDENT'S PARENT OR GUARDIAN TO CHOOSE TO AUTHORIZE THE RELEASE OF THE STUDENT'S PERSONAL INFORMATION AND PLATFORM RESULTS TO:~~

~~(i) APPRENTICESHIP SPONSORS REGISTERED WITH THE DIVISION OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND ADULT LEARNING UNDER § 11-405 OF THE LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT ARTICLE; AND~~

~~(ii) EMPLOYERS REGISTERED WITH THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF LABOR OR LOCAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARDS.~~

~~(c) EACH PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL SHALL, IN THE SAME MANNER IN WHICH THE SCHOOL INFORMS STUDENTS OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATIONAL OPTIONS, INFORM STUDENTS OF EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE THROUGH:~~

~~(1) APPRENTICESHIP SPONSORS REGISTERED WITH THE DIVISION OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND ADULT LEARNING UNDER § 11-405 OF THE LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT ARTICLE; AND~~

~~(2) EMPLOYERS REGISTERED WITH THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF LABOR OR LOCAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARDS; AND~~

~~(3) SCHOOLS LICENSED BY THE MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION THAT PROVIDE TRAINING, RETRAINING, OR ENHANCEMENT IN EMPLOYMENT SKILLS.~~

~~(B) WHEN INFORMING STUDENTS ABOUT OPPORTUNITIES UNDER THIS SECTION, EACH PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL SHALL HIGHLIGHT OPPORTUNITIES IN HIGH-SKILLED CAREERS THAT DO NOT REQUIRE COMPLETION OF A COLLEGE DEGREE AND ARE IN HIGH DEMAND IN THE STATE.~~

~~(C) EACH COUNTY BOARD SHALL ASSIST PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS IN COMPLETING THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION.~~

~~7-203.1.~~

~~(a) (1) [For fiscal years 2003 and 2004, the Department shall distribute grants to Tier I counties, as defined in § 1-101 of the Economic Development Article, for the administration of the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test to 10th grade students.]~~

~~(2)] For fiscal year 2005 and each subsequent fiscal year, the Department shall distribute grants to each county for the administration of the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test to 10th grade students.~~

~~[(b)] (2) Subject to the availability of funding in the State budget, the amount of each county's grant shall be in an amount sufficient for the administration of the test to all 10th grade students in the county.~~

~~(B) (1) (i) IN THIS SUBSECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.~~

~~(ii) "APPRENTICESHIP ENTRANCE EXAM" MEANS THE TRADE SPECIFIC ASSESSMENT USED TO EVALUATE A STUDENT'S BASIC APTITUDE BEFORE THE STUDENT BEGINS THE PRACTICAL AND TECHNICAL TRAINING PHASE OF AN APPRENTICESHIP.~~

~~(iii) "INDUSTRIAL CERTIFICATION EXAM" MEANS THE INDUSTRY RECOGNIZED ASSESSMENT THAT DOCUMENTS A STUDENT'S PERFORMANCE AND ACHIEVEMENT OF INDUSTRY STANDARDS AND RESULTS IN THE RECEIPT OF A CERTIFICATE, A LICENSE, OR ANY OTHER CREDENTIAL.~~

~~(2) IF A COUNTY BOARD PAYS FOR ANY STUDENT TO TAKE AN ADVANCED PLACEMENT EXAMINATION, A PRELIMINARY SCHOLASTIC APTITUDE TEST/NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP QUALIFYING TEST, OR A SCHOLASTIC APTITUDE TEST, THE COUNTY BOARD SHALL PAY FOR A STUDENT TO TAKE AN APPRENTICESHIP ENTRANCE EXAM OR INDUSTRIAL CERTIFICATION EXAM.~~

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2024.

Approved by the Governor, April 25, 2024.