

**SB253 ENROLLED**



1 SB253  
2 5N1V663-3  
3 By Senators Chesteen, Carnley, Elliott, Allen, Kitchens,  
4 Butler, Barfoot, Jones, Shelnutt, Figures, Smitherman,  
5 Sessions, Williams, Kelley, Singleton, Livingston, Reed,  
6 Hovey, Roberts, Weaver, Waggoner, Coleman-Madison  
7 RFD: Education Policy  
8 First Read: 21-Mar-24



## SB253 Enrolled

1 Enrolled, An Act,

2

3

4 To establish the Alabama Workforce Pathways Act; to  
5 provide different pathways for earning a high school diploma  
6 based on future career paths; to require the State Board of  
7 Education and the State Department of Education to develop a  
8 curriculum for earning a Workforce Pathways diploma; to  
9 provide, subject to funding, for the refurbishing and  
10 construction of new career and technical education centers or  
11 K-12 students; and to also provide, subject to funding, for  
12 the Alabama Short-Term Credential Program to provide  
13 additional scholarships for training through the Alabama  
14 Community College System.

15 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

16 Section 1. (a) This act shall be known and may be cited  
17 as the Alabama Workforce Pathways Act.

18 (b) The purpose of this act is to provide enhanced  
19 academic and skilled trades opportunities for Alabama  
20 students, and to facilitate the development of a career  
21 pathways diploma at the K-12 level that would enhance career  
22 and technical education opportunities for high school students  
23 who plan to enter the workforce immediately after graduation.

24 (c) The Legislature finds and declares that high school  
25 students need more than one pathway to earn a high school  
26 diploma in this state.

27 Section 2. (a) The State Board of Education shall  
28 establish a new Workforce Pathways diploma pathway at the K-12



## SB253 Enrolled

29 level.

30 (b) Following the establishment of the Workforce  
31 Pathways diploma, the State Department of Education shall  
32 develop the curriculum for this program within 120 days after  
33 its approval by the State Board of Education. The curriculum  
34 may include a listing of required credits, courses,  
35 competencies, and experiences necessary to earn a diploma  
36 through the workforce pathway.

37 (c) All K-12 students in this state shall earn the same  
38 high school diploma, regardless of which diploma pathway they  
39 follow; however, students enrolled in the Workforce Pathways  
40 diploma pathway shall only be required to complete two math  
41 credits and two science credits to earn their high school  
42 diploma instead of the four math and four science credits  
43 required of other students. The State Department of Education  
44 shall develop an identifying seal that is to be placed on any  
45 high school diploma earned by a student following the  
46 workforce pathway.

47 (d) In lieu of the math and science credits, students  
48 enrolled in the Workforce Pathways diploma pathway may earn  
49 credits that apply toward graduation by completing career and  
50 technical education courses, which help prepare those students  
51 to go directly into employment in their chosen field following  
52 high school graduation.

53 (e) The State Department of Education shall work with  
54 local boards of education throughout the state to implement  
55 the Workforce Pathways diploma pathway at the local level.

56 (f) Students who earn a diploma through the Workforce



## SB253 Enrolled

57 Pathway shall be eligible for admission to any postsecondary  
58 institution or public university in the state; provided,  
59 however, each institution and university shall maintain the  
60 ability to set its own admission requirements.

61 (g) When an alternative assessment is developed for  
62 students in the Workforce Pathways diploma pathway, that  
63 assessment may be considered in assigning an academic  
64 achievement grade to a school or school system.

65 Section 3. The State Board of Education may seek  
66 additional funding from the Legislature to construct,  
67 retrofit, or upgrade career and technical education centers  
68 throughout the state so that a career and technical education  
69 center is located within a reasonable distance from every high  
70 school in the state. While school systems with a larger  
71 population of students may need their own career and technical  
72 education center, school systems with smaller populations of  
73 students may share career and technical education centers.

74 Section 4. The Legislature may provide additional  
75 funding for the Alabama Short-Term Credential Program that  
76 provides scholarships to facilitate the participation of  
77 individuals in for credit and non-credit courses provided  
78 through the Alabama Community College System offering training  
79 for in-demand careers in the region where the course is  
80 taught.

81 Section 5. This act shall become effective October 1,  
82 2024.



**SB253 Enrolled**

83  
84  
85  
86  
87  
88  
89  
90  
91  
92  
93  
94  
95  
96  
97  
98  
99  
100  
101  
102  
103  
104  
105  
106  
107  
108  
109  
110  
111  
112  
113  
114  
115  
116  
117  
118  
119  
120

---

President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

---

Speaker of the House of Representatives

SB253

Senate 09-Apr-24

I hereby certify that the within Act originated in and passed the Senate, as amended.

Patrick Harris,  
Secretary.

---

House of Representatives  
Amended and passed: 18-Apr-24

---

Senate concurred in House amendment 23-Apr-24

---

By: Senator Chesteen