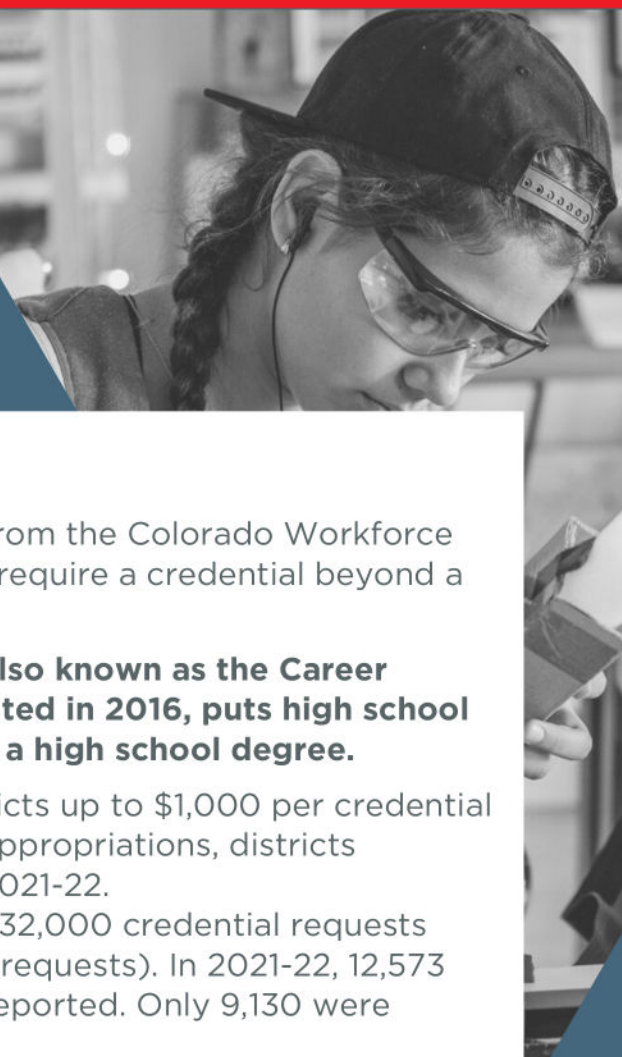


SB 23-065 CAREER DEVELOPMENT SUCCESS PROGRAM



BACKGROUND

According to the 2021 Talent Pipeline report from the Colorado Workforce Development Council, 90% of Tier 1 Top Jobs require a credential beyond a high school diploma.

The Career Development Success Program, also known as the Career Development Incentive Program (CDIP), created in 2016, puts high school students on track to earn credentials beyond a high school degree.

- CDIP is designed to reimburse school districts up to \$1,000 per credential earned, but due to demand and previous appropriations, districts received less than \$500 per credential in 2021-22.
- Demand has outpaced supply. Since 2016, 32,000 credential requests have been funded (with over 44,000 total requests). In 2021-22, 12,573 total qualifying credentials/courses were reported. Only 9,130 were funded due to available appropriations.
- Districts across Colorado have benefited. 61 school districts and nine charter schools participated in 2021-22, 50% of which are categorized as rural or small rural.
- Students earn industry credentials in high-demand fields such as business, consumer science, skilled trades, STEM, information technology, and healthcare science, all of which align with top industry jobs.
- School districts are using the incentive money to expand certification offerings to more students, buy technology to offer different certifications, cover transportation to work-based learning experiences, and cover exam fees for underserved students unable to pay.

Benefits to students in these programs are tremendous.

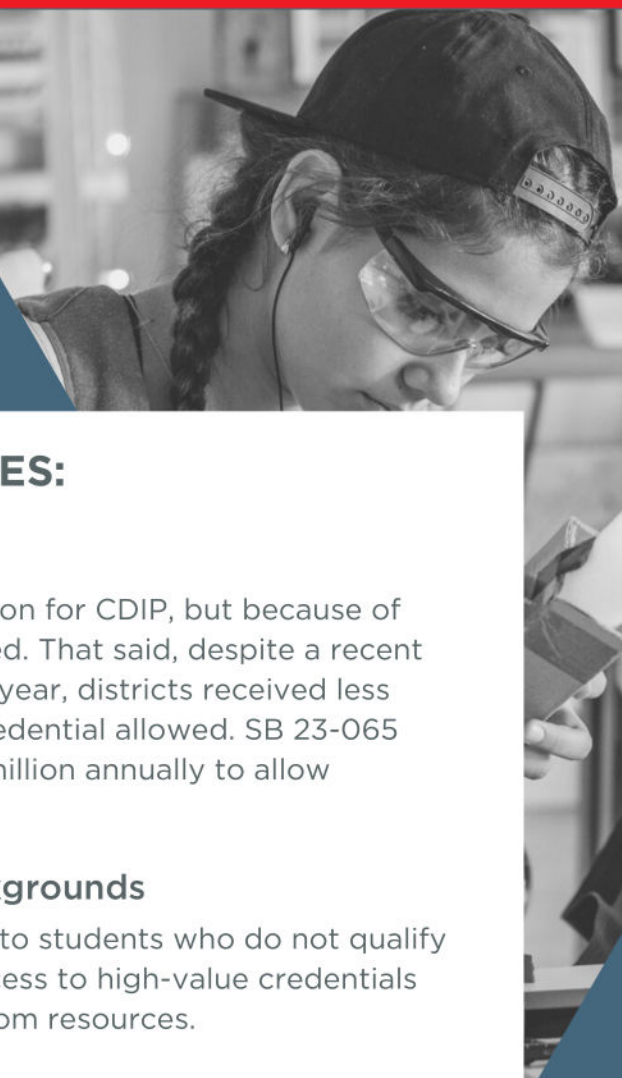
Students re-engage in their traditional studies and develop critical soft skills, such as collaborating on teams and communicating better with their peers and mentors. Completing certification programs coupled with work-based learning helps engage high schoolers at a time when many struggle to see the value of their education.



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SB 23-065 CAREER DEVELOPMENT SUCCESS PROGRAM



SB 23-065 MAKES THESE CHANGES:

Increases Funding

Statute requires an annual appropriation of \$1 million for CDIP, but because of the program's success, more has been appropriated. That said, despite a recent \$4 million in appropriations, in the 2021-22 school year, districts received less than \$500 per credential versus the \$1,000 per credential allowed. SB 23-065 increases required funding from \$1 million to \$10 million annually to allow districts to receive closer to the amount allowed.

Prioritize Learners from Low-Income Backgrounds

More than 75% of CDIP credentials were provided to students who do not qualify for free or reduced lunch. SB 23-065 improves access to high-value credentials for students who have been historically furthest from resources.

Reauthorization

CDIP is currently set to expire in 2024, and with much focus on workforce development in 2023, the program should be reauthorized for 10 years.

Ensures All Industry Aligned Programs are Included

SB 23-065 ensures apprenticeships are qualifying credentials when they align with needs identified in the Talent Pipeline Report. The bill also removes the requirement to fully complete an apprenticeship since completion can take longer than a typical student can complete high school.

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