

CHAPTER 75

AN ACT concerning school districts and supplementing Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

C.18A:54-31.1 Findings, declarations relative to certain programs of a school district.

1. The Legislature finds and declares that:
 - a. The economic prosperity of New Jersey depends on a strong pipeline of workers with the academic, technical, and career readiness skills to fill current and future jobs;
 - b. Expanding access to career and technical education and engaging employers in the development and delivery of technical education are crucial for the State's economic growth and critical strategies for keeping New Jersey competitive in the global economy;
 - c. While almost 32,000 full-time and shared-time students are currently enrolled at New Jersey's county vocational school districts, the demand for a career and technical education exceeds the space available at most schools;
 - d. On a Statewide basis, county vocational school districts receive nearly 2.5 applications for each available space, and in some counties, and for certain programs, the demand is much greater. In 2013, roughly 16,700 students seeking career and technical education programs were not able to be accommodated;
 - e. Given the immediate shortage of space for career and technical education program expansion, employers can play a significant role in helping to meet short-term needs by hosting career and technical education programs in an industry setting and offering work-based learning opportunities for students;
 - f. This type of public-private partnership is a desirable mechanism to address the needed expansion of career and technical education programs and would give students access to equipment and technology that is expensive or difficult to replicate in public school district settings; and
 - g. In order to facilitate this worthwhile partnership, career and technical education programs taught in industry settings should be exempted from certain unnecessarily restrictive State regulations.

C.18A:54-31.2 Career, technical education programs exempt from certain regulations.

2. a. Notwithstanding the provisions of any law or regulation to the contrary, in the case of a career and technical education program of a school district which has been approved by the Department of Education and is taught at a location other than the school district:
 - (1) The educational facility standards for new construction pursuant to N.J.A.C.6A:26-6.3 shall not apply to the location at which the career and technical education program is taught;
 - (2) The location at which the career and technical education program is taught shall not require approval as a temporary facility pursuant to N.J.A.C.6A:26-8.1; and
 - (3) The long range facilities plan of the school district shall not be required to take into consideration any career and technical education programs taught at a location other than the school district.
 - b. The location at which the career and technical education program is taught shall meet the requirements of the uniform construction code and all applicable health and safety standards.
3. This act shall take effect immediately.

Approved December 3, 2014.