

**SENATE
STATE OF MINNESOTA
NINETY-THIRD SESSION**

S.F. No. 4035

(SENATE AUTHORS: **BOLDON and Nelson**)

DATE
02/22/2024

D-PG

Introduction and first reading
Referred to Education Finance

OFFICIAL STATUS

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to education finance; clarifying the grant application process for the
1.3 P-TECH program; amending Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 124D.093,
1.4 subdivisions 3, 4, 5; Laws 2023, chapter 55, article 2, section 64, subdivision 33.

1.5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.6 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 124D.093, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

1.7 Subd. 3. **Application process.** The commissioner must determine the form and manner
1.8 of application for a school to be designated a P-TECH school. The application for an
1.9 implementation grant must contain at least the following information:

1.10 (1) the written agreement between a public school, a higher education institution under
1.11 section 124D.09, subdivision 3, paragraph (a), and a business partner to jointly develop and
1.12 support a P-TECH school;

1.13 (2) a proposed school design consistent with subdivisions 1 and 2;

1.14 (3) a description of how the P-TECH school supports the needs of the economic
1.15 development region in which the P-TECH school is to be located;

1.16 (4) a description of the facilities to be used by the P-TECH school;

1.17 (5) a description of proposed budgets, curriculum, transportation plans, and other
1.18 operating procedures for the P-TECH school;

1.19 (6) the process by which students will be enrolled in the P-TECH school;

1.20 (7) the qualifications required for individuals employed in the P-TECH school; and

1.21 (8) any additional information that the commissioner requires.

2.1 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 124D.093, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

2.2 Subd. 4. **Approval process.** (a) The commissioner of education must appoint an advisory
2.3 committee to review the applications and to recommend approval for those applications
2.4 that meet the requirements of this section. The commissioner of education has final authority
2.5 over application approvals.

2.6 (b) To the extent practicable, the commissioner must ensure an equitable geographic
2.7 distribution of approved P-TECH schools.

2.8 ~~(c) The commissioner must first begin approving applications for a P-TECH school~~
2.9 ~~enrolling students in the 2020-2021 school year or later.~~

2.10 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 124D.093, subdivision 5, is amended to read:

2.11 Subd. 5. **P-TECH support, start-up, and mentoring grants.** (a) When an appropriation
2.12 is available, each P-TECH school is eligible for a grant to support start-up and ongoing
2.13 program costs, which may include, but are not limited to, recruitment, student support,
2.14 program materials, and P-TECH school liaisons. A P-TECH school may form a partnership
2.15 with a school in another school district.

2.16 (b) For fiscal year 2026 and later, the maximum P-TECH support grant must not exceed
2.17 \$500,000 per year. A support grant may be awarded for a period not to exceed two years.
2.18 Beginning in fiscal year 2028, all P-TECH support grants must be awarded on a competitive
2.19 grant basis.

2.20 (c) An approved P-TECH school is eligible to receive a grant to support start-up costs
2.21 the year before first enrolling P-TECH students. A start-up grant may be awarded to a new
2.22 applicant in an amount not to exceed \$50,000.

2.23 (d) A grant recipient operating a P-TECH program may provide mentoring and technical
2.24 assistance to a school eligible for a start-up grant. A mentoring and technical assistance
2.25 grant may not exceed \$50,000.

2.26 Sec. 4. Laws 2023, chapter 55, article 2, section 64, subdivision 33, is amended to read:

2.27 Subd. 33. **P-TECH schools.** (a) For P-TECH support grants under Minnesota Statutes,
2.28 section 124D.093, subdivision 5:

2.29 \$ 791,000 2024

2.30 \$ 791,000 2025

3.1 (b) ~~The amounts in this subdivision are for grants, including~~ fiscal year 2024 appropriation
3.2 must be awarded as a grant to a public-private partnership that includes Independent School
3.3 District No. 535, Rochester. The fiscal year 2025 appropriation must include a grant of at
3.4 least \$500,000 to a public-private partnership that includes Independent School District No.
3.5 535, Rochester. The department may award start-up grants and technical assistance grants
3.6 beginning in fiscal year 2025.

3.7 (c) ~~Any balance in the first year does~~ These appropriations do not cancel but is are
3.8 available in the second year until June 30, 2027. Notwithstanding any law to the contrary,
3.9 a grant recipient may spend its grant amount in the fiscal year the grant is awarded or in the
3.10 following three fiscal years.

3.11 (d) The department may retain up to two percent of the fiscal year 2024 appropriation
3.12 and five percent of the fiscal year 2025 appropriation for grant administration.

3.13 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.