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AB-296 Apprenticeship fairs. (2025-2026)

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AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 25, 2025

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE— 2025–2026 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

NO. 296

Introduced by Assembly Member Davies

January 23, 2025

An act to amend Section 3074.2 of the Labor Code, relating to apprenticeships.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 296, as amended, Davies. Apprenticeship fairs.

Existing law provides for the establishment of apprenticeship programs in various trades, to be approved by the Chief of the Division of Apprenticeship Standards within the Department of Industrial Relations in any trade in the state or in a city or trade area whenever the apprentice training needs justify the establishment. Existing law requires a school district or school to notify each apprenticeship program in the same county as the school district or school of a career or college fair it is planning to hold, as specified. Existing law provides that the Legislature encourages school districts and schools to host apprenticeship fair events, as provided.

This *bill would authorize a school district or school to notify an apprenticeship program in a county that borders the county in which the school district or school operates if no apprenticeship program operates in the same county as the school district or school.* The bill would *also* delete the above-specified provision regarding the Legislature's encouragement to school districts and schools and would, instead, require ~~school districts and schools~~ *a school district or school* to host at least one apprenticeship fair event during each school year, as specified. By creating new requirements of schools and school districts, this bill would establish a state-mandated local program.

Existing law requires a pupil to complete designated coursework while in grades 9 to 12, inclusive, in order to receive a diploma of graduation from high school. Existing law authorizes a governing board of a school district to adopt other prescribed coursework requirements.

This bill would require, if the governing board of a school district requires the completion of community service hours as a requirement for graduation from high school, a school district to provide a pupil with one hour of credit towards the required community service hours for attendance at a college fair, career fair, or apprenticeship fair.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to the statutory provisions noted above.

Vote: majority Appropriation: no Fiscal Committee: yes Local Program: yes

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Section 3074.2 of the Labor Code is amended to read:

3074.2. (a) For the purposes of this section:

(1) "Career fair" means an event where multiple private businesses, government agencies, university representatives, or career technical school representatives are invited by a school or school district to present career options or career technical education options for students.

(2) "College fair" means an event where multiple college or university representatives are invited by a school or school district to present college options to students.

(3) "School" means public schools, including, but not limited to, charter schools and alternative schools.

(b) (1) A school district or school that is planning to hold a college or career fair shall notify each apprenticeship program in the same county as the school district or school of the college or career fair. *If no apprenticeship program operates in the same county, the school district or school may notify an apprenticeship program in any county that shares a geographic border with the county where the school district or school is located.* In determining the county location of an apprenticeship program, the school district or school shall rely on the database of approved apprenticeship programs published by the Division of Apprenticeship Standards on its internet website.

(2) The notification shall include both of the following:

(A) The planned date and time of the college fair or career fair.

(B) The planned location of the college fair or career fair.

(3) Notice shall be delivered before the planned date of the college or career fair either by first-class mail or by electronic mail pursuant to the contact information contained in the database of approved apprenticeship programs published by the Division of Apprenticeship Standards on its internet website.

(c) (1) At least once during each school year, a school ~~districts and schools~~ *district or school* shall host an apprenticeship fair event, in the style of college and career fair events, that is focused on local apprenticeship programs and career technical education opportunities.

(2) The school district or school shall notify each apprenticeship program in the county of the school district or school about the apprenticeship fair using the requirements set forth in subdivision (b).

(d) If the governing board of a school district requires the completion of community service hours as a requirement for graduation, the school district shall allow a student who attends a college fair, career fair, or apprenticeship fair the equivalent of one hour towards the community service hourly requirements per year.

SEC. 2. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.