

TITLE 23: EDUCATION AND CULTURAL RESOURCES
SUBTITLE A: EDUCATION
CHAPTER I: STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
SUBCHAPTER g: SPECIAL COURSES OF STUDY

PART 255
REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

Section

255.100 Definitions

255.200 Registered Apprenticeship Program

AUTHORITY: Implementing Section 2-3.175 of the School Code [105 ILCS 5].

SOURCE: Adopted at 44 Ill. Reg. 14799, effective August 27, 2020.

Section 255.100 Definitions

"Registered Apprenticeship Program" or "Program" means an industry-based occupational training program of study registered by the U.S. Department of Labor, after standards review, that meets each of the following characteristics:

Apprentices in the program are at all times employed by a company participating in the program.

The program features a structured combination of on-the-job learning supported by related technical classroom instruction, delivered either by a high school or a public community college.

The:

apprentices in the program are paid a training wage, of not less than the State minimum wage, that escalates throughout the life of the apprenticeship; and

employment continued with the company following conclusion of the apprenticeship for a period of not less than 2 years.

Apprentices in the program earn an industry-related occupational skills certificate and a high school diploma.

Apprentices in the program may earn postsecondary credit toward a certificate or degree, as applicable.

"Registered Apprenticeship Program" does not include an apprenticeship program related to construction, as defined under the Employee Classification Act [820 ILCS 185]. (Section 2-3.175 of the Code)

"School Code" or "Code" means 105 ILCS 5.

"State Board" means the State Board of Education.

Section 255.200 Registered Apprenticeship Program

- a) Each school district that maintains any of grades 9 through 12 may adopt a policy to allow a student of any high school who is 16 years of age or older to participate in a registered apprenticeship program.
- b) A school district that chooses to adopt a policy under this Section shall include all of the following in that policy:
 - 1) Allowing a student enrolled in a registered apprenticeship program to satisfy one or more high school courses or academic graduation requirements by successfully completing the program.
 - 2) A definition of a registered apprenticeship program that meets the criteria outlined in Section 255.100.
 - 3) Opportunities for students enrolled in a registered apprenticeship program to earn postsecondary credit toward a certificate or degree, as applicable.
 - 4) Language confirming that successful completion of a registered apprenticeship program may be substituted for a required course or academic graduation requirement under any policy adopted by a school board under this Section unless the student's parent or guardian approves the substitution in writing on a form that the school district makes available on its website.
 - 5) *A waiver of all non-academic requirements mandated for graduation from high school under the Code that would otherwise prohibit or prevent a student from participating in the registered apprenticeship program (Section 2-3.175 of the Code).*
- c) A school district that chooses to adopt a policy under this Section shall:
 - 1) Post the policy on its website for students, parents, and members of the business and industry community to access; and
 - 2) Notify students and parents of the opportunities for registered apprenticeships. At a minimum, a school district must provide this notification through the school district's website and the school handbook. This notification must include:

- A) a statement that a student may participate in any registered apprenticeship program listed by the school district; and
 - B) a statement that a student may find a registered, but not listed, apprenticeship program with a business or organization, if a registered apprenticeship program is not offered in the school district.
- d) A school district shall identify, and submit to the State Board through the Student Information System (see 23 Ill. Adm. Code 1.75), data on those students who are participating in a registered apprenticeship program.
- e) A school district shall identify and attempt to eliminate any barriers to student participation in a registered apprenticeship.
- f) If a school district awards endorsements under the Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness Act [110 ILCS 148], the registered apprenticeship program must be included in the Career Pathway Endorsement.