388.1664c.added Analysis of current career readiness education system; study; report.

Sec. 64c. (1) From the general fund money appropriated in section 11, there is allocated to the department for 2014-2015 an amount not to exceed $250,000.00 for a study under this section. The department shall commission an independent third party to conduct a study and prepare a report analyzing the state's current career readiness education system.

(2) The purpose of the study under this section shall be to research current high school and postsecondary curricula and facilities and develop recommendations for the implementation of a statewide system to support career pathways that lead to education and training opportunities to lessen the existing talent gap in the state.

(3) The study under this section shall, at a minimum, include recommendations that address at least all of the following:

(a) Identification of redundancy of roles, programs, and capital infrastructure among public schools, intermediate districts, community colleges, and universities in providing high-skilled degrees and credentials and make recommendations to better coordinate those roles, programs, and facilities.

(b) Development of a statewide strategy and related policies that will result in more coordinated and expedited pathways for students to obtain high-skilled college degrees and credentials, regardless of point of entry.

(c) Proposed metrics that can be used to measure this state's success toward achieving the desired outcomes.

(d) Identification of specific barriers for students and potential ways to address those barriers.

(4) The department shall ensure that educators and the business community are solicited for their input as part of the study.

(5) The report summarizing the results of the study under this section shall be presented to the department no later than September 30, 2015.