



ABC SUPPORTS SENATE BILL 89

Bill Summary

Senate Bill 89 amends the Pennsylvania Public School Code of 1949 to update references to “vocational-technical” with “career and technical.” Currently, the School Code contains multiple references to “vocational-technical,” “vocation,” and “vocational,” including the State Board of Vocational Education.

ABC Position

ABC supports Senate Bill 89 for the reasons listed below. We ask that you vote in support of the legislation.

- **Reduces the stigma associated with career & technical opportunities.** For decades, policy and society have placed a disproportionate value on college education, neglecting the importance and value of non-college education. SB 89 helps to remove those barriers by eliminating references to “vocation,” an outdated and misrepresented label. Career & technical schools, formerly known as vocational schools, have been discouraged by society for decades, leading to a significant shortfall in employees in core industries like healthcare, manufacturing, and skilled construction trades. Further, a recent study found that career & technical schools offer a 93% graduation rate, compared to the national high school graduation rate of 82%.
- **Updates current law to reflect industry standards.** SB 89 would not only reflect the current industry vernacular, but it would also utilize terminology that more accurately represents the opportunities offered at career & technical institutions. Rather than simply deliver a vocational curriculum, 21st century career & technical centers provide a comprehensive learning environment built around applied sciences, cutting-edge technology, and complex skilled trades.