



## 2023 South Dakota Legislature

# House Concurrent Resolution 6001

*Introduced by: **Representatives** Deutsch, Healy, Ernie Otten, Rehfeldt, and Stevens and **Senators** Reed, Schoenfish, Tobin, and Wheeler at the request of the Study Committee on Juvenile Justice*

1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, To study a potential optional educational path.**

2 WHEREAS, the purpose of education in South Dakota is to provide a learning experience  
3 that leads students to become productive and positive contributors to society; and

4 WHEREAS, South Dakota recognizes two certificates for high school completion: a diploma  
5 for fulfilling high school graduation requirements and a Graduate Equivalent Diploma (GED)  
6 for satisfactory completion of a high school equivalency exam; and

7 WHEREAS, it is compulsory in South Dakota for those 18 years or younger to attend an  
8 accredited public or nonpublic school or be provided alternative education; and

9 WHEREAS, as evidenced by South Dakota's graduation rate, some students need a  
10 different path to success than the traditional classroom; and

11 WHEREAS, a factor in truancy and classroom disruption is disengagement with learning;  
12 and

13 WHEREAS, South Dakota is experiencing a historic low unemployment rate with worker  
14 shortages in many sectors; and

15 WHEREAS, many jobs require certificates, licenses, and prior experience in order to work  
16 in the field; and

17 WHEREAS, the South Dakota Department of Labor reports a 94% retention rate for  
18 individuals enrolled in registered apprenticeship programs available to those 16 to 18 years  
19 of age; and

20 WHEREAS, the South Dakota Department of Education reports success with career and  
21 technical education as a means to broaden the application of traditional K-12 learning; and

1        WHEREAS, many trade associations are willing partners in programs to expand their  
2 employment base:

3        NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the Ninety-  
4 Eighth Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the Senate concurring therein, that the  
5 Executive Board of the Legislature shall establish a multi-disciplinary task force to explore  
6 new alternatives to keep individuals 16 years or older engaged in learning opportunities that  
7 lead to high school completion. The task force shall report their findings and recommendations  
8 to the standing education committees of the Senate and the House by February 1, 2024.