

Subd. 3. **Competency standards identification process.** In identifying competency standards, the commissioner shall consult with the commissioner of the Office of Higher Education and the commissioner of employment and economic development and convene recognized industry experts, representative employers, higher education institutions, representatives of the disabled community, and representatives of labor to assist in identifying credible competency standards. Competency standards must be consistent with, to the extent available and practical, recognized international and national standards.

Subd. 4. **Duties.** The commissioner shall:

(1) convene industry representatives to identify, develop, and implement dual-training programs;

(2) identify competency standards for ~~entry-level~~ entry-level and higher skill levels;

~~(2)~~ (3) verify the competency standards and skill levels and their transferability by subject matter expert representatives of each respective industry;

~~(3)~~ (4) develop models for Minnesota educational institutions to engage in providing education and training to meet the competency standards established;

~~(4)~~ (5) encourage participation by employers and labor in the competency standard identification process for occupations in their industry; and

~~(5)~~ (6) align ~~dual-training competency standards~~ dual-training programs with other workforce initiatives; and

(7) provide technical assistance to develop dual-training programs.

Subd. 5. **Notification.** The commissioner must communicate identified competency standards to the commissioner of the Office of Higher Education for the purpose of the ~~dual training~~ dual-training competency grant program under section 136A.246. The commissioner of labor and industry shall maintain the competency standards on the department's Web site.

Sec. 2. **APPROPRIATION.**

\$500,000 in fiscal year 2018 and \$500,000 in fiscal year 2019 are appropriated from the workforce development fund to the commissioner of labor and industry for the pipeline program under Minnesota Statutes, section 175.45.