

AN ACT concerning education.

**Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,
represented in the General Assembly:**

Section 5. The School Code is amended by changing Section 21B-70 as follows:

(105 ILCS 5/21B-70)

Sec. 21B-70. Illinois Teaching Excellence Program.

(a) As used in this Section:

"Poverty or low-performing school" means a school in academic early warning status or academic watch status or a school in which 50% or more of its students are eligible for free or reduced-price school lunches.

"Qualified educator" means a teacher or school counselor currently employed in a school district who is in the process of obtaining certification through the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards or who has completed certification and holds a current Professional Educator License with a National Board for Professional Teaching Standards designation or a retired teacher or school counselor who holds a Professional Educator License with a National Board for Professional Teaching Standards designation.

(b) Beginning on July 1, 2011, any funds appropriated for the Illinois Teaching Excellence Program must be used to

provide monetary assistance and incentives for qualified educators who are employed by school districts and who have or are in the process of obtaining licensure through the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. The goal of the program is to improve instruction and student performance.

The State Board of Education shall allocate an amount as annually appropriated by the General Assembly for the Illinois Teaching Excellence Program for (i) application fees for each qualified educator seeking to complete certification through the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, to be paid directly to the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, and (ii) incentives for each qualified educator to be distributed to the respective school district. The school district shall distribute this payment to each eligible teacher or school counselor as a single payment.

The State Board of Education's annual budget must set out by separate line item the appropriation for the program. Unless otherwise provided by appropriation, qualified educators are eligible for monetary assistance and incentives ~~based on the priorities~~ outlined in subsection (c) of this Section.

(c) When there are adequate funds available, ~~priorities (1), (2), (3), (4), and (5), as outlined in this subsection (c), must be funded. If full funding to meet all priorities as outlined in this subsection (c) is not available, funding must be distributed in the order of the priorities listed in this subsection (c). If funding is insufficient to fund a priority~~

~~in full, then funding for that priority must be prorated and no further priorities shall be funded. Priorities for monetary assistance and incentives shall include the following be as follows:~~

(1) ~~Priority 1:~~ A maximum of \$2,000 towards the application fee for up to 750 teachers or school counselors in a poverty or low-performing school who apply on a first-come, first-serve basis for National Board certification.

(2) ~~Priority 2:~~ A maximum of \$2,000 towards the application fee for up to 250 teachers or school counselors in a school other than a poverty or low-performing school who apply on a first-come, first-serve basis for National Board certification. However, if there were fewer than 750 individuals supported in item priority (1) of this subsection (c), then the number supported in this item priority (2) may be increased as such that the combination of item priority (1) of this subsection (c) and this item priority (2) shall equal 1,000 applicants.

(3) A maximum of \$1,000 towards the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards' renewal application fee.
~~Priority 3: The fee for the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards' Take One! (the test for National Board certification) for up to 500 qualified educators who apply on a first-come, first-serve basis.~~

(4) (Blank). ~~Priority 4: An annual incentive equal to~~

~~\$1,500, which shall be paid to each qualified educator who holds both a National Board for Professional Teaching Standards designation and a current corresponding certificate issued by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, who is employed in a school district, and who agrees, in writing, to provide 30 hours of mentoring or National Board for Professional Teaching Standards professional development or both during the school year to teachers or school counselors in a poverty or low performing school, as applicable.~~

(5) ~~Priority 5:~~ An annual incentive equal to \$1,500, which shall be paid to each qualified educator currently employed in a school district who holds both a National Board for Professional Teaching Standards designation and a current corresponding certificate issued by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards and who agrees, in writing, to provide at least 30 hours of mentoring or National Board for Professional Teaching Standards professional development or both during the school year to classroom teachers or school counselors, as applicable. Funds must be dispersed on a first-come, first-serve basis, with priority given to poverty or low-performing schools. Mentoring ~~for all priorities~~ shall include, either singly or in combination, ~~mentoring of~~ the following:

(A) National Board for Professional Teaching Standards certification candidates.

(B) National Board for Professional Teaching Standards re-take candidates.

(C) National Board for Professional Teaching Standards renewal candidates.

(D) (Blank). ~~National Board for Professional Teaching Standards Take One! participants.~~

Funds may also be used for instructional leadership training for qualified educators interested in supporting implementation of the Illinois Learning Standards or teaching and learning priorities of the State Board of Education or both.

(Source: P.A. 97-607, eff. 8-26-11.)

Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect July 1, 2014.