

1 AN ACT concerning education.

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

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

6 (105 ILCS 5/21B-70)

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

8 (a) As used in this Section:

9 ~~"Poverty or low performing school" means a school~~  
10 ~~identified as a priority school under Section 2-3.25d-5 of this~~  
11 ~~Code or a school in which 50% or more of its students are~~  
12 ~~eligible for free or reduced price school lunches.~~

13 "National Board certified teacher rural or remote  
14 candidate cohort facilitator" means a National Board certified  
15 teacher who collaborates to advance the goal of supporting  
16 rural or remote candidates through the Illinois National Board  
17 for Professional Teaching Standards Comprehensive Support  
18 System.

19 "National Board certified teacher rural or remote liaison"  
20 means an individual who supports the National Board certified  
21 teacher leading a rural or remote candidate cohort.

22 "Qualified educator" means a teacher or school counselor  
23 currently employed in a school district who is in the process

1 of obtaining certification through the National Board for  
2 Professional Teaching Standards or who has completed  
3 certification and holds a current Professional Educator  
4 License with a National Board for Professional Teaching  
5 Standards designation or a retired teacher or school counselor  
6 who holds a Professional Educator License with a National Board  
7 for Professional Teaching Standards designation.

8 "Rural or remote" means local codes 33, 41, 42, and 43 of  
9 the New Urban-Centric Locale Codes, as defined by the National  
10 Center for Education Statistics.

11 "Tier 1" has the meaning given to that term under Section  
12 18-8.15.

13 (b) ~~Any Beginning on July 1, 2011, any~~ funds appropriated  
14 for the Illinois Teaching Excellence Program must be used to  
15 provide monetary assistance and incentives for qualified  
16 educators who are employed by or retired from school districts  
17 and who have or are in the process of obtaining licensure  
18 through the National Board for Professional Teaching  
19 Standards. The goal of the program is to improve instruction  
20 and student performance.

21 The State Board of Education shall allocate an amount as  
22 annually appropriated by the General Assembly for the Illinois  
23 Teaching Excellence Program for (i) application or re-take fees  
24 for each qualified educator seeking to complete certification  
25 through the National Board for Professional Teaching  
26 Standards, to be paid directly to the National Board for

1 Professional Teaching Standards, and (ii) incentives under  
2 paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) of subsection (c) for each  
3 qualified educator, to be distributed to the respective school  
4 district, and incentives under paragraph (5) of subsection (c),  
5 to be distributed to the respective school district or directly  
6 to the qualified educator. The school district shall distribute  
7 this payment to each eligible teacher or school counselor as a  
8 single payment.

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

14 (c) When there are adequate funds available, monetary  
15 assistance and incentives shall include the following:

16 (1) A maximum of \$2,000 towards the application or  
17 re-take fee for ~~up to 750~~ teachers or school counselors in  
18 a Tier 1 ~~poverty or low performing~~ school district who  
19 apply on a first-come, first-serve basis for National Board  
20 certification.

21 (2) A maximum of \$2,000 towards the application or  
22 re-take fee for ~~up to 250~~ teachers or school counselors in  
23 a school district other than a Tier 1 ~~poverty or~~  
24 ~~low performing~~ school district who apply on a first-come,  
25 first-serve basis for National Board certification.  
26 ~~However, if there were fewer than 750 individuals supported~~

1 ~~in item (1) of this subsection (c), then the number~~  
2 ~~supported in this item (2) may be increased as such that~~  
3 ~~the combination of item (1) of this subsection (c) and this~~  
4 ~~item (2) shall equal 1,000 applicants.~~

5 (3) A maximum of \$1,000 towards the National Board for  
6 Professional Teaching Standards' renewal application fee.

7 (4) (Blank).

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

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

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

26 (C) National Board for Professional Teaching

1 Standards renewal candidates.

2 (D) (Blank).

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

8 (d) In addition to the monetary assistance and incentives  
9 provided under subsection (c), if adequate funds are available,  
10 incentives shall include the following incentives for the  
11 program in rural or remote school districts, to be distributed  
12 to the respective school district or directly to the qualified  
13 educator:

14 (1) A one-time incentive of \$3,000 payable to National  
15 Board certified teachers teaching in Tier 1 rural or remote  
16 school districts.

17 (2) An annual incentive of \$3,200 for National Board  
18 certified teacher rural or remote candidate cohort  
19 facilitators.

20 (3) An annual incentive of \$2,500 for National Board  
21 certified teacher rural or remote liaisons.

22 (Source: P.A. 99-193, eff. 7-30-15; 100-201, eff. 8-18-17.)