

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 "Diverse candidate" means a candidate who identifies with
10 any of the ethnicities reported on the Illinois Report Card
11 other than White.

12 "National Board certified teacher candidate cohort
13 facilitator" means a National Board certified teacher who
14 collaborates to advance the goal of supporting all other
15 candidate cohorts other than diverse candidate cohorts through
16 the Illinois National Board for Professional Teaching
17 Standards Comprehensive Support System.

18 "National Board certified teacher diverse candidate cohort
19 facilitator" means a National Board certified teacher who
20 collaborates to advance the goal of supporting racially and
21 ethnically diverse candidates through the Illinois National
22 Board for Professional Teaching Standards Comprehensive
23 Support System.

1 "National Board certified teacher diverse liaison" means
2 an individual or entity that supports the National Board
3 certified teacher leading a diverse candidate cohort.

4 "National Board certified teacher liaison" means an
5 individual or entity that supports the National Board
6 certified teacher leading candidate cohorts other than diverse
7 candidate cohorts.

8 "National Board certified teacher rural or remote or
9 distant candidate cohort facilitator" means a National Board
10 certified teacher who collaborates to advance the goal of
11 supporting rural or remote candidates through the Illinois
12 National Board for Professional Teaching Standards
13 Comprehensive Support System.

14 "National Board certified teacher rural or remote or
15 distant liaison" means an individual or entity that supports
16 the National Board certified teacher leading a rural or remote
17 candidate cohort.

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

1 "Rural or remote" or "rural or remote or distant" means
2 local codes 32, 33, 41, 42, and 43 of the New Urban-Centric
3 Locale Codes, as defined by the National Center for Education
4 Statistics.

5 "Tier 1" has the meaning given to that term under Section
6 18-8.15.

7 "Tier 2" has the meaning given to that term under Section
8 18-8.15.

9 (b) Any funds appropriated for the Illinois Teaching
10 Excellence Program must be used to provide monetary assistance
11 and incentives for qualified educators who are employed by or
12 retired from school districts and who have or are in the
13 process of obtaining licensure through the National Board for
14 Professional Teaching Standards. The goal of the program is to
15 improve instruction and student performance.

16 The State Board of Education shall allocate an amount as
17 annually appropriated by the General Assembly for the Illinois
18 Teaching Excellence Program for (i) application or re-take
19 fees for each qualified educator seeking to complete
20 certification through the National Board for Professional
21 Teaching Standards, to be paid directly to the National Board
22 for Professional Teaching Standards, and (ii) incentives under
23 paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) of subsection (c) for each
24 qualified educator, to be distributed to the respective school
25 district, and incentives under paragraph (5) of subsection
26 (c), to be distributed to the respective school district or

1 directly to the qualified educator. The school district shall
2 distribute this payment to each eligible teacher or school
3 counselor as a single payment.

4 The State Board of Education's annual budget must set out
5 by separate line item the appropriation for the program.
6 Unless otherwise provided by appropriation, qualified
7 educators are eligible for monetary assistance and incentives
8 outlined in subsections (c) and (d) of this Section.

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

11 (1) A maximum of \$2,000 towards the application or
12 re-take fee for teachers or school counselors in a Tier 1
13 school district who apply on a first-come, first-serve
14 basis for National Board certification.

15 (2) A maximum of \$2,000 towards the application or
16 re-take fee for teachers or school counselors in a school
17 district other than a Tier 1 school district who apply on a
18 first-come, first-serve basis for National Board
19 certification.

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

22 (4) (Blank).

23 (5) An annual incentive of no more than \$2,250 ~~\$1,500~~
24 prorated at \$50 per hour, which shall be paid to each
25 qualified educator currently employed in a school district
26 who holds both a National Board for Professional Teaching

1 Standards designation and a current corresponding
2 certificate issued by the National Board for Professional
3 Teaching Standards and who agrees, in writing, to provide
4 up to 45 ~~30~~ hours of mentoring or National Board for
5 Professional Teaching Standards professional development
6 or both during the school year to classroom teachers or
7 school counselors, as applicable. Funds must be disbursed
8 on a first-come, first-serve basis, with priority given to
9 Tier 1 school districts. Mentoring shall include, either
10 singly or in combination, the following:

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

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

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

17 (D) (Blank).

18 Funds may also be used for professional development
19 training provided by the National Board Resource Center.

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

25 (d) In addition to the monetary assistance and incentives
26 provided under subsection (c), if adequate funds are

1 available, incentives shall include the following incentives
2 for the program in rural or remote schools or school districts
3 or for programs working with diverse candidates, to be
4 distributed to the respective school district or directly to
5 the qualified educator or entity:

6 (1) A one-time incentive of \$3,000 payable to National
7 Board certified teachers teaching in Tier 1 or Tier 2
8 rural or remote school districts or rural or remote
9 schools in Tier 1 or Tier 2 school districts, with
10 priority given to teachers teaching in Tier 1 rural or
11 remote school districts or rural or remote schools in Tier
12 1 school districts.

13 (2) An annual incentive of \$3,200 for National Board
14 certified teacher rural or remote or distant candidate
15 cohort facilitators, diverse candidate cohort
16 facilitators, and candidate cohort facilitators. Priority
17 shall be given to rural or remote candidate cohort
18 facilitators and diverse candidate cohort facilitators.

19 (3) An annual incentive of \$2,500 for National Board
20 certified teacher rural or remote or distant liaisons,
21 diverse liaisons, and liaisons. Priority shall be given to
22 rural or remote liaisons and diverse liaisons.

23 (Source: P.A. 100-201, eff. 8-18-17; 101-333, eff. 1-1-20;
24 101-654, eff. 3-8-21.)

25 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
26 becoming law.