

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 "Hard-to-staff school" means a public school in which no
13 less than 30% of the student enrollment is considered
14 low-income as reported by the report card under Section 10-17a
15 of this Code.

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

22 "National Board certified teacher diverse candidate cohort
23 facilitator" means a National Board certified teacher who

1 collaborates to advance the goal of supporting racially and
2 ethnically diverse candidates through the Illinois National
3 Board for Professional Teaching Standards Comprehensive
4 Support System.

5 "National Board certified teacher diverse liaison" means
6 an individual or entity that supports the National Board
7 certified teacher leading a diverse candidate cohort.

8 "National Board certified teacher liaison" means an
9 individual or entity that supports the National Board
10 certified teacher leading candidate cohorts other than diverse
11 candidate cohorts.

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

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

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

1 License with a National Board for Professional Teaching
2 Standards designation or a retired teacher or school counselor
3 who holds a Professional Educator License with a National
4 Board for Professional Teaching Standards designation.

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

9 "Tier 1" has the meaning given to that term under Section
10 18-8.15.

11 "Tier 2" has the meaning given to that term under Section
12 18-8.15.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

26 (4) (Blank).

1 (5) An annual incentive of no more than \$1,500
2 prorated at \$50 per hour, which shall be paid to each
3 qualified educator currently employed in a school district
4 who holds both a National Board for Professional Teaching
5 Standards designation and a current corresponding
6 certificate issued by the National Board for Professional
7 Teaching Standards and who agrees, in writing, to provide
8 up to 30 hours of mentoring or National Board for
9 Professional Teaching Standards professional development
10 or both during the school year to classroom teachers or
11 school counselors, as applicable. Funds must be disbursed
12 on a first-come, first-serve basis, with priority given to
13 Tier 1 school districts. Mentoring shall include, either
14 singly or in combination, the following:

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

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

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

21 (D) (Blank).

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

1 (d) In addition to the monetary assistance and incentives
2 provided under subsection (c), if adequate funds are
3 available, incentives shall include the following incentives
4 for the program in rural or remote schools or school districts
5 or for programs working with diverse candidates or for
6 retention bonuses for hard to staff schools, to be distributed
7 to the respective school district or directly to the qualified
8 educator or entity:

9 (1) A one-time incentive of \$3,000 payable to National
10 Board certified teachers teaching in Tier 1 or Tier 2
11 rural or remote school districts or rural or remote
12 schools in Tier 1 or Tier 2 school districts, with
13 priority given to teachers teaching in Tier 1 rural or
14 remote school districts or rural or remote schools in Tier
15 1 school districts.

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

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

26 (4) An annual retention bonus of \$4,000 per year for 2

1 consecutive years shall be awarded to National Board
2 certified teachers employed in hard-to-staff schools.
3 Funds must be disbursed on a first-come, first-served
4 basis.

5 (Source: P.A. 100-201, eff. 8-18-17; 101-333, eff. 1-1-20;
6 101-654, eff. 3-8-21.)