

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 1259

Introduced by Meyer, 41; Ballard, 21; Bostar, 29; Halloran, 33;
Holdcroft, 36; Kauth, 31; Linehan, 39; Lippincott, 34;
McKinney, 11; Moser, 22; Murman, 38; von Gillern, 4; Walz,
15; Wayne, 13.

Read first time January 16, 2024

Committee: Education

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to teachers; to provide for grants and bonuses
- 2 for teachers; to provide powers and duties; and to state intent
- 3 regarding appropriations.
- 4 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. (1) A teacher that, after the effective date of this
2 act, signs a contract to complete a school year of full-time employment
3 at a Class V school district for a school that is classified as a needs-
4 support-to-improve school under the accountability system developed by
5 the State Board of Education pursuant to section 79-760.06 and teaches
6 for one school year in such school shall be eligible to apply for a five-
7 thousand-dollar grant from the State Department of Education on forms and
8 in a manner prescribed by the department. A teacher shall only be
9 eligible to apply for one grant pursuant to this section.

10 (2) The department shall award a grant to any eligible teacher who
11 applies and meets the requirements of this section.

12 (3) The State Board of Education may adopt and promulgate rules and
13 regulations to carry out this section.

14 Sec. 2. (1) The State Department of Education shall develop and
15 administer the Classroom Improvement Program. The program shall consist
16 of two bonuses available to eligible teachers who meet the qualifications
17 pursuant to this section. Such bonuses include a classroom performance
18 bonus and a student advancement bonus.

19 (2) The State Department of Education shall distribute the award
20 amount calculated pursuant to the formula developed for each bonus as
21 provided in subsections (3) and (4) of this section for a classroom
22 performance bonus, a student advancement bonus, or both directly to any
23 teacher who teaches at a Class V school district in a school classified
24 as a needs-support-to-improve school under the accountability system
25 developed by the State Board of Education pursuant to section 79-760.06
26 and who satisfies the requirement for the particular bonus or bonuses.
27 The department shall maintain the records related to the program and any
28 teacher receiving a bonus pursuant to the program, including tracking
29 teacher demographics, the number of years a teacher has taught, the
30 annual income a teacher receives from teaching, the school and location a
31 teacher teaches at, and any other information the department may require.

1 The department shall not share such information except as aggregate data
2 that does not include personally identifiable information for any
3 particular teacher.

4 (3) A classroom performance bonus shall be awarded in one of four
5 award amounts to reward an eligible teacher based on the overall academic
6 performance growth of such teacher's class in state or national
7 assessments between the fall semester and the spring semester compared to
8 the national or state average based on all eligible students in the
9 teacher's class for such subject or grade level. An eligible teacher may
10 receive a classroom performance bonus based on the following formula:

11 (a) An advanced award of two thousand five hundred dollars for a
12 classroom percentage growth that is one and two-tenths through one and
13 thirty-nine hundredths percent more than the state or national average;

14 (b) An exceptional award of five thousand dollars for a classroom
15 percentage growth that is one and four-tenths through one and fifty-nine
16 hundredths percent more than the state or national average;

17 (c) A distinguished award of seven thousand five hundred dollars for
18 a classroom percentage growth that is one and six-tenths through one and
19 seventy-nine hundredths percent more than the state or national average;

20 or

21 (d) An extraordinary award of ten thousand dollars for a classroom
22 percentage growth that is at least one and eight-tenths percent more than
23 the state or national average.

24 (4) A student advancement bonus shall be awarded in one of four
25 award amounts to reward a teacher for the advancement of individual
26 students in such teacher's class in state or national assessments between
27 the fall semester and the spring semester based on a student's improving
28 a quartile or more in a quartile measurement system for such subject or
29 grade level that measures the fourth quartile as zero to twenty-five
30 percent, the third quartile as twenty-six to fifty percent, the second
31 quartile as fifty-one to seventy-five percent, and the first quartile as

1 seventy-six to one hundred percent. An eligible teacher may receive a
2 student advancement bonus based on the following formula:

3 (a) An award amount of one thousand dollars for each student that
4 advances from the fourth quartile to the third, second, or first
5 quartile;

6 (b) An award amount of five hundred dollars for each student that
7 advances from the third to the second or first quartile; and

8 (c) An award amount of two hundred fifty dollars for each student
9 that advances from the second to the first quartile.

10 (5) The State Board of Education may adopt and promulgate rules and
11 regulations to carry out the Classroom Improvement Program.

12 (6) It is the intent of the Legislature to appropriate five million
13 dollars from the General Fund to the State Department of Education for
14 FY2024-25 to carry out the Classroom Improvement Program.