

[First Reprint]

**SENATE, No. 2661**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**220th LEGISLATURE**

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INTRODUCED MAY 16, 2022

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator RICHARD J. CODEY**

**District 27 (Essex and Morris)**

**Senator TROY SINGLETON**

**District 7 (Burlington)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Senators Diegnan and Turner**

**SYNOPSIS**

Establishes New Jersey Educator Scholarship Program.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As reported by the Senate Education Committee on June 2, 2022, with amendments.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/2/2022)**

1 AN ACT establishing the New Jersey Educator Scholarship  
2 Program, and supplementing chapter <sup>1</sup>6] 71B<sup>1</sup> of Title 18A of  
3 the New Jersey Statutes.

4  
5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
6 of New Jersey:

7  
8 1. There is established in the <sup>1</sup>Higher Education Student  
9 Assistance Authority, in coordination with the<sup>1</sup> Department of  
10 Education <sup>1</sup>, <sup>1</sup> the New Jersey Educator Scholarship Program. The  
11 purpose of the program shall be to provide incentives for <sup>1</sup>high-  
12 achieving<sup>1</sup> students to pursue careers in education.

13 a. Under the program, the <sup>1</sup>department authority<sup>1</sup> shall  
14 award 50 scholarships annually to eligible recipients enrolled in an  
15 institution of higher education in the State. Students shall receive a  
16 <sup>1</sup>tuition waiver scholarship in an amount up to the remaining  
17 amount of tuition that is not covered by State, federal, or any other  
18 need-based grant or merit scholarship, for up to 18 credits<sup>1</sup> for each  
19 semester of study <sup>1</sup>and be awarded plus<sup>1</sup> a stipend in the amount  
20 of \$5,000 annually. <sup>1</sup>Notwithstanding the provisions of this  
21 subsection to the contrary, the amount of a scholarship awarded to a  
22 student under the program shall not exceed the average in-State  
23 tuition amount charged by the four-year public institutions of higher  
24 education in the academic year in which the scholarship is  
25 awarded.<sup>1</sup>

26 b. A student shall be eligible to receive a stipend and <sup>1</sup>tuition  
27 waiver scholarship<sup>1</sup> under the program for a maximum of four  
28 academic years, or until receipt of a bachelor's degree and  
29 completion of an educator preparation program, whichever occurs  
30 first.

31 c. Within the first five full school years immediately following  
32 receipt of a bachelor's degree and completion of an educator  
33 preparation program, a student who received a scholarship under the  
34 program shall seek and accept full time employment as a teaching  
35 staff member with a public school district <sup>1</sup>, charter school, or  
36 renaissance school<sup>1</sup> in the State of New Jersey for no less than three  
37 full school years, during which time the student shall receive  
38 mentoring coordinated by the <sup>1</sup>department hiring district or  
39 school in consultation with the Department of Education.  
40 Notwithstanding the provisions of any other law, rule, or regulation  
41 to the contrary, the mentoring provided to an individual under this  
42 subsection shall be in addition to any minimum requirements for  
43 mentorship established pursuant to State law or regulation<sup>1</sup>. For the  
44 purposes of fulfilling the requirements of this subsection, the three

**EXPLANATION** – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

<sup>1</sup>Senate SED committee amendments adopted June 2, 2022.

1 years of employment with a public school district may be  
2 nonconsecutive and may be divided between multiple public school  
3 districts in the State of New Jersey. A student who fails to meet the  
4 requirements of this subsection shall be subject to the provisions of  
5 paragraph (3) of subsection d. of section 2 of this act.

6 d. Nothing in this section shall be construed to exempt a  
7 student from meeting teacher certification requirements in  
8 accordance with rules and regulations promulgated by the State  
9 Board of Education.

10  
11 2. a. In order to be eligible for a scholarship under the program,  
12 a student shall:

13 (1) be a United States citizen or <sup>1</sup>~~permanent resident alien~~ an  
14 eligible noncitizen as determined under 20 U.S.C. s.1091, or meet  
15 the requirements of N.J.S.18A:71B-2 or section 1 of P.L.2018, c.12  
16 (C.18A:71B-2.1) as applicable<sup>1</sup>;

17 (2) be a resident of the State of New Jersey; and

18 (3) be enrolled full time in an <sup>1</sup>~~approved~~ educator  
19 preparation<sup>1</sup> program <sup>1</sup>~~of study~~ <sup>1</sup>at an institution of higher  
20 education in the State.

21 b. The <sup>1</sup>Higher Education Student Assistance Authority, in  
22 coordination with the<sup>1</sup> Department of Education <sup>1</sup>,<sup>1</sup> may establish  
23 additional eligibility requirements and minimum qualifications for  
24 the program, <sup>1</sup>including limiting the program to students seeking  
25 degrees in math, science, special education, world languages,  
26 bilingual education, or other subjects determined to be in high  
27 demand for teachers by the department,<sup>1</sup> as well as a process for  
28 assessing eligible individuals for consideration for <sup>1</sup>~~appointment~~  
29 as a student acceptance into the program<sup>1</sup>.

30 c. A student's scholarship shall remain in effect only during  
31 such period as the student achieves satisfactory academic progress  
32 as defined by the institution and continues to meet the eligibility  
33 requirements and minimum qualifications established pursuant to  
34 subsections a. and b. of this section.

35 d. (1) The scholarship shall not remain in effect for a student  
36 who is dismissed from the institution of higher education or  
37 educator preparation program for academic or disciplinary reasons,  
38 is disqualified from employment by a school district due to the  
39 detection of criminal history record information pursuant to section  
40 1 of P.L.1986, c.116 (C.18A:6-7.1), or otherwise becomes ineligible  
41 to receive a certificate of eligibility with advanced standing from  
42 the Board of Examiners, and the student shall be required to repay  
43 <sup>1</sup>~~to the department~~ <sup>1</sup>in full the amount of any stipend and the  
44 value of any <sup>1</sup>~~tuition waiver~~ scholarship<sup>1</sup> received <sup>1</sup>as a debt to  
45 the State<sup>1</sup>.

46 (2) The scholarship shall not remain in effect for a student who  
47 does not obtain a bachelor's degree within the first four years of the  
48 scholarship or who withdraws from an <sup>1</sup>~~approved~~ educator  
49 preparation<sup>1</sup> program <sup>1</sup>~~of study~~ <sup>1</sup>due to the student's illness, the

1 illness of a member of the student's immediate family, or a family  
2 emergency but the student shall not be required to repay <sup>1</sup>to the  
3 department<sup>1</sup> the amount of any stipend or the value of any  
4 <sup>1</sup>tuition waiver<sup>1</sup> scholarship<sup>1</sup> received.

5 (3) A student who received a scholarship under the program  
6 who does not complete three full years of employment as a teaching  
7 staff member with a public school district <sup>1</sup>, charter school, or  
8 renaissance school<sup>1</sup> in the State of New Jersey within five years of  
9 receiving a bachelor's degree and completing an educator  
10 preparation program shall repay <sup>1</sup>to the department<sup>1</sup> the amount  
11 of any stipend and the value of any <sup>1</sup>tuition waiver<sup>1</sup> scholarship<sup>1</sup>  
12 received under the <sup>1</sup>scholarship<sup>1</sup> program <sup>1</sup>as a debt to the State<sup>1</sup>,  
13 prorated against the duration of employment with a public school  
14 district <sup>1</sup>charter school, or renaissance school<sup>1</sup> in the State as  
15 follows: a student who completes two full years of employment  
16 shall repay one-third of the amount of any financial support  
17 received, a student who completes one full year of employment  
18 shall repay two-thirds of the amount of any financial support  
19 received, and a student who fails to complete a full year of  
20 employment shall repay the full amount of any financial support  
21 received.

22 <sup>1</sup>[(4) A student who fails to make repayment to the department  
23 pursuant to this subsection who is the holder of any certification  
24 issued by the Board of Examiners shall be subject to disciplinary  
25 action by the board which may include, but need not be limited to,  
26 the revocation or suspension of the certification until such time as  
27 repayment is made to the department.] Any amount a student is  
28 required to pay shall be treated as a debt to the State, not a student  
29 loan.<sup>1</sup>  
30

31 3. The State shall appropriate funds in each fiscal year to  
32 finance the <sup>1</sup>scholarships and<sup>1</sup> stipends provided to students  
33 pursuant to section 1 of P.L. , c. (C. )(pending before the  
34 Legislature as this bill), in such sums as may be necessary, and to  
35 effectuate the purposes of the program established in accordance  
36 with section 1 of P.L. , c. (C. )(pending before the Legislature  
37 as this bill).  
38

39 4. This act shall take effect immediately and shall first apply to  
40 the first full academic year following the date of enactment.