

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 3886

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 22, 2023

Sponsored by:

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District 11 (Monmouth)

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District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators Stanfield and Turner

SYNOPSIS

Establishes New Jersey Student Teacher Scholarship.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Senate Education Committee on November 27, 2023,
with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/20/2023)

1 AN ACT establishing the New Jersey ¹**[Student Educator Stipend]**
2 Student Teacher Scholarship¹ Program and supplementing chapter
3 71B of Title 18A of 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. As used in this act:

9 “Approved program of study” means an undergraduate program
10 leading to a bachelor's degree offered by a four-year ¹**[public]**¹
11 institution of higher education; ¹a post-baccalaureate program;¹ or a
12 graduate program leading to a master's degree offered by ¹**[a**
13 **public]** an¹ institution of higher education in the State.

14 “Authority” means the Higher Education Student Assistance
15 Authority.

16 “Certificate of eligibility with advanced standing” means an
17 instructional certificate with lifetime validity issued by the State
18 Board of Examiners to candidates who meet degree, academic, and
19 test requirements for teacher certification and complete an educator
20 preparation program.

21 “Clinical practice” means the culminating field-based experience
22 or internship required by an educator preparation program.

23 “Eligible student” means a student completing a required clinical
24 practice through a certificate of eligibility with advanced standing
25 educator preparation program at ¹**[a public]** an¹ institution of
26 higher education.

27 “Program” means the New Jersey ¹**[Student Educator Stipend]**
28 Student Teacher Scholarship¹ Program.

29
30 2. a. There is established in the Higher Education Student
31 Assistance Authority, in coordination with the Department of
32 Education, the New Jersey ¹**[Student Educator Stipend]** Student
33 Teacher Scholarship¹ Program. The purpose of the program shall be
34 to reduce financial barriers to teacher certification.

35 b. Under the program, the authority shall award ¹**[stipends]**
36 scholarships¹ to eligible students for each semester of full-time
37 clinical practice completed by a student ¹in a school in the State¹.
38 Students shall be awarded a ¹**[stipend]** scholarship¹ in ¹**[the]** an¹
39 amount ¹**[of]** not to exceed¹ \$7,200 for each semester of full-time
40 clinical practice completed by a student. ¹The executive director of
41 the authority may increase the maximum award amount established
42 pursuant to this section to include a cost of living adjustment.¹ A

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:

¹Senate SED committee amendments adopted November 27, 2023.

1 student shall be eligible to receive a **1** stipend scholarship**1** under
2 the program for a maximum of two academic semesters.

3

4 3. a. To be eligible for a **1** stipend scholarship**1** under the
5 program, an applicant shall:

6 (1) **1** be a United States citizen, permanent resident alien, or any
7 student eligible to complete the New Jersey Alternative Financial
8 Aid Application;

9 (2) **1** be a resident of the State;

10 **1** (3) **1** be enrolled on a full-time basis in an approved
11 program of study; and

12 **1** (4) **1** complete any steps required by the approved program
13 of study to be eligible to apply for clinical practice.

14 b. The authority, in coordination with the department, may
15 establish additional eligibility requirements and minimum
16 qualifications for the program, including limiting the program to
17 students seeking degrees in math, science, special education, world
18 languages, bilingual education, or other subjects determined to be in
19 high demand for educators by the department.

20 c. A student's **1** stipend scholarship**1** shall continue only during
21 the period the student **1** achieves satisfactory academic progress**1**
22 remains in good academic standing,**1** as defined by the institution and
23 continues to meet the eligibility and minimum qualifications
24 established pursuant to subsections a. and b. of this section.

25 d. (1) The **1** stipend scholarship**1** shall be terminated if a student
26 is dismissed from the **1** public**1** institution of higher education or
27 educator preparation program for academic or disciplinary reasons,
28 is disqualified from employment by a school district due to the
29 detection of criminal history record information pursuant to section
30 1 of P.L.1986, c.116 (C.18A:6-7.1), or otherwise becomes ineligible
31 to receive a certificate of eligibility with advanced standing from
32 the Board of Examiners**1**, and the student shall be required to
33 repay the full amount of any stipend received under the program as
34 a debt to the State**1**.

35 (2) The **1** stipend scholarship**1** shall be terminated if a student
36 withdraws from an approved program of study due to the student's
37 illness, the illness of a member of the student's immediate family,
38 or a family emergency, but the student shall not be required to
39 repay the amount of any **1** stipend scholarship**1** received under the
40 program.

41

42 4. Within 90 days of the effective date of this act, the authority
43 shall establish an application process to provide **1** stipends**1**
44 scholarships**1** to eligible students under the New Jersey **1** Student
45 Educator Stipend**1** Student Teacher Scholarship**1** Program
46 established pursuant to section 2 of this act. No later than the first

1 day of the fourth month next following the effective date of this act,
2 the authority shall make the application available, and shall, within
3 a reasonable time frame thereafter, commence approving
4 applications for the program.

5

6 5. The authority, in coordination with the Department of
7 Education, shall annually collect data to measure the effectiveness of
8 the program, which shall include, but not be limited to:

9 a. the total number of program participants, disaggregated by
10 certificate of eligibility with advanced standing educator preparation
11 program;

12 b. a survey of program participants to measure the participant's
13 experience with the '1[stipend]1' program; and

14 c. the demographic data of each program participant,
15 disaggregated by race, ethnicity, and gender.

16

17 6. Nothing in this act shall be construed to exempt a student
18 from meeting educator certification requirements in accordance
19 with rules and regulations promulgated by the State Board of
20 Education.

21

22 7. The Legislature shall annually appropriate from the General
23 Fund to the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority
24 amounts as may be necessary to effectuate the purposes of this act.

25

26 8. This act shall take effect immediately and shall first apply to
27 the first full academic year following the date of enactment.