

# ASSEMBLY, No. 2362

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 221st LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2024 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman CHRIS TULLY**

**District 38 (Bergen)**

**Assemblyman HERB CONAWAY, JR.**

**District 7 (Burlington)**

**Assemblywoman PAMELA R. LAMPITT**

**District 6 (Burlington and Camden)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblymen Stanley, Atkins, Assemblywomen Reynolds-Jackson, Lopez, Carter, Assemblymen Wimberly and Coughlin**

**SYNOPSIS**

Establishes New Jersey Student Teacher Scholarship.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/12/2024)**

1 AN ACT establishing the New Jersey Student Teacher Scholarship  
2 Program and supplementing chapter 71B of Title 18A of the New  
3 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 institution of  
11 higher education; a post-baccalaureate program; or a graduate  
12 program leading to a master's degree offered by an institution of  
13 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 an institution of higher education.

26 “Program” means the New Jersey Student Teacher Scholarship  
27 Program.

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

34 b. Under the program, the authority shall award scholarships to  
35 eligible students for each semester of full-time clinical practice  
36 completed by a student in a school in the State. Students shall be  
37 awarded a scholarship in an amount not to exceed \$7,200 for each  
38 semester of full-time clinical practice completed by a student. The  
39 executive director of the authority may increase the maximum  
40 award amount established pursuant to this section to include a cost  
41 of living adjustment. A student shall be eligible to receive a  
42 scholarship under the program for a maximum of two academic  
43 semesters.

44  
45 3. a. To be eligible for a scholarship under the program, an  
46 applicant shall:

47 (1) be a resident of the State;

- 1 (2) be enrolled on a full-time basis in an approved program of  
2 study; and
- 3 (3) complete any steps required by the approved program of  
4 study to be eligible to apply for clinical practice.
- 5 b. The authority, in coordination with the department, may  
6 establish additional eligibility requirements and minimum  
7 qualifications for the program, including limiting the program to  
8 students seeking degrees in math, science, special education, world  
9 languages, bilingual education, or other subjects determined to be in  
10 high demand for educators by the department.
- 11 c. A student's scholarship shall continue only during the period  
12 the student remains in good academic standing, as defined by the  
13 institution and continues to meet the eligibility and minimum  
14 qualifications established pursuant to subsections a. and b. of this  
15 section.
- 16 d. (1) The scholarship shall be terminated if a student is  
17 dismissed from the institution of higher education or educator  
18 preparation program for academic or disciplinary reasons, is  
19 disqualified from employment by a school district due to the  
20 detection of criminal history record information pursuant to section  
21 1 of P.L.1986, c.116 (C.18A:6-7.1), or otherwise becomes ineligible  
22 to receive a certificate of eligibility with advanced standing from  
23 the Board of Examiners.
- 24 (2) The scholarship shall be terminated if a student withdraws  
25 from an approved program of study due to the student's illness, the  
26 illness of a member of the student's immediate family, or a family  
27 emergency, but the student shall not be required to repay the  
28 amount of any scholarship received under the program.  
29
- 30 4. Within 90 days of the effective date of this act, the authority  
31 shall establish an application process to provide scholarships to  
32 eligible students under the New Jersey Student Teacher Scholarship  
33 Program established pursuant to section 2 of this act. No later than  
34 the first day of the fourth month next following the effective date of  
35 this act, the authority shall make the application available, and  
36 shall, within a reasonable time frame thereafter, commence  
37 approving applications for the program.  
38
- 39 5. The authority, in coordination with the Department of  
40 Education, shall annually collect data to measure the effectiveness  
41 of the program, which shall include, but not be limited to:
- 42 a. the total number of program participants, disaggregated by  
43 certificate of eligibility with advanced standing educator  
44 preparation program;
- 45 b. a survey of program participants to measure the participant's  
46 experience with the program; and
- 47 c. the demographic data of each program participant,  
48 disaggregated by race, ethnicity, and gender.

1       6. Nothing in this act shall be construed to exempt a student  
2 from meeting educator certification requirements in accordance  
3 with rules and regulations promulgated by the State Board of  
4 Education.

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

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

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#### STATEMENT

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16       This bill establishes the New Jersey Student Teacher Scholarship  
17 Program in the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority to  
18 reduce financial barriers to teacher certification.

19       Under the bill, the program is to provide scholarships to students  
20 completing required clinical practice through a certificate of  
21 eligibility with advanced standing educator preparation program at  
22 an institution of higher education in the State. A student is eligible  
23 to receive a scholarship of up to \$7,200 for each semester of full-  
24 time clinical practice completed in a school in the State.

25       To be eligible for a scholarship, an applicant is required to: be a  
26 resident of the State; be enrolled full-time in an approved program  
27 of study; and complete any steps required by the approved program  
28 of study to be eligible to apply for clinical practice. The bill  
29 requires the authority to establish an application process for the  
30 program.

31       The authority, in coordination with the Department of Education,  
32 may establish additional eligibility requirements and minimum  
33 qualifications for the program. Additionally, the authority, in  
34 coordination with the department, is to annually collect data on the  
35 program.

36       Finally, the bill details reasons for which a student's scholarship  
37 may be terminated. The bill also stipulates that the scholarship is to  
38 be terminated if the student is dismissed from the institution of  
39 education preparation program for academic or disciplinary reasons  
40 or withdraws due to illness. Under the bill, the student would not  
41 be required to repay the scholarship in either situation.