

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)

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District 6 (Burlington and Camden)

Co-Sponsored by:

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

SYNOPSIS

Establishes New Jersey Student Teacher Scholarship Program.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Education Committee with technical review.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/14/2024)

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.

28
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.

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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.