

ENROLLED ACT NO. 120, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SIXTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WYOMING
2019 GENERAL SESSION

AN ACT relating to educators; modifying national board teacher certification incentive programs; repealing obsolete provisions; and providing for an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:

Section 1. W.S. 21-7-501(a)(intro), (ii), by creating a new paragraph (iv), (c), (f)(intro), (i), (ii), (iv), (v) and by creating a new subsection (g) is amended to read:

21-7-501. National certification program; program limits and requirements; appropriations requirements; certified teacher pay incentive reimbursement.

(a) ~~The professional teaching standards board shall by rule department of education may enter into an agreement with a nonprofit entity to~~ establish a program under which ~~school districts shall reimburse no more than fifty (50) the department or the nonprofit entity will administer a program to assist teachers in earning national board teacher certification. The agreement between the department and the nonprofit entity shall require annual reporting by the nonprofit entity to the department. The program may provide professional development and mentoring specific to national board teacher certification, along with other activities related to national certification. Additionally, on behalf of teachers and certified or licensed service providers~~ employed by Wyoming school districts the program may make payments directly to an organization that provides national board teacher certification for not more than fifty percent (50%) of the actual cost of receiving fees to receive national certification, not to exceed the national certification fee as established by the national board for professional teaching standards, for the applicable year certification was received, provided ~~The program shall only make payments if:~~

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(ii) ~~The teacher or service provider, as applicable, was successful in receiving his national certification~~ timely pays the teacher's portion of the certification fees and timely completes progress toward certification as required by the program; and

(iv) The teacher agrees to reimburse the program for any certification fee payments the program makes on behalf of the teacher in the event the teacher fails to formally withdraw from the process or to submit an entry that can be scored, as determined by the program.

(c) ~~A school district~~ The legislature may ~~apply for an innovative program grant under W.S. 21-22-106(a)(iii) to recover amounts reimbursed to teachers and service providers under subsection (b) of this section~~ appropriate funds to the department to implement subsection (a) of this section. No funds appropriated by the legislature shall be distributed to the program if the nonprofit entity with whom the department has entered into an agreement under subsection (a) of this section does not contribute to the program an amount equal to the amount that will be distributed from funds appropriated by the legislature. The department shall ensure that state funds and funds the nonprofit entity provides to the program shall be accounted for separately.

(f) In addition to ~~reimbursement of the cost of national board certification~~ the program established under subsection ~~(b)~~ (a) of this section, and to promote employment of national board certified teachers by school districts, each district employing a national board certified teacher shall be reimbursed for payments to these teachers subject to the following:

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(i) For each year the certificate is valid, the district provides each teacher employed by the district and holding certification by the national board for professional teaching standards a lump sum payment of four thousand dollars (\$4,000.00) which is in addition to the teacher's annual salary as determined by the board, and which is paid to each certified teacher between December 1 and December 31 of the school year for which application is made; ~~under paragraph (ii) of this subsection;~~

(ii) ~~Effective school year 2007-2008 and each school year thereafter,~~ The teacher holding certification shall be employed by the district ~~full-time~~ full time as a teacher; ~~For purposes of this subsection, "teacher" shall include employees of the district holding certification and employed full-time as instructional facilitators, certified tutors, librarians or counselors;~~

(iv) From amounts appropriated by the legislature from the public school foundation program account for purposes of this subsection, the department of education shall distribute payments to eligible districts in accordance with this subsection on or before February 15 of the applicable school year, together with the district's foundation payment under W.S. 21-13-313(c), if applicable. The department shall not provide reimbursement to a school district for a lump sum payment made in accordance with paragraph (i) of this subsection to a teacher who earned initial national board teacher certification on or after January 1, 2021 and has received fifteen (15) lump sum payments under this subsection;

(v) Not later than ~~December 31, 2007, and each December 31 thereafter~~ January 31 of each year, the department shall report to the joint education interim committee on district reports submitted under paragraph (iii) of this

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subsection and estimated distributions under this subsection to eligible districts for the applicable reporting period.

(g) For purposes of this section, "teacher" means a school district employee who is employed full time as a teacher, instructional facilitator, certified tutor, librarian, speech-language therapist or counselor.

Section 2. W.S. 21-7-501(a)(iii), (b) and (d) is repealed.

Section 3. This act is effective July 1, 2019.

(END)

Speaker of the House

President of the Senate

Governor

TIME APPROVED: _____

DATE APPROVED: _____

I hereby certify that this act originated in the House.

Chief Clerk