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AB-1128 California Student Teacher Support Grant Program. (2025-2026)

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AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 10, 2025

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE— 2025–2026 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

NO. 1128

Introduced by Assembly Member Muratsuchi

February 20, 2025

An act *to add Section 44416.5 to the Education Code, relating to* ~~teacher credentialing~~; *teachers.*

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1128, as amended, Muratsuchi. ~~Teacher credentialing; clinical practice; student teacher compensation.~~ *California Student Teacher Support Grant Program.*

Existing law requires the Commission on Teacher Credentialing to establish standards for the issuance and renewal of credentials, certificates, and permits. Existing law requires the commission to adopt standards for the accreditation of postsecondary teacher preparation programs. Existing law prescribes "clinical practice" as one of the commission-adopted standards and requires that teaching credential candidates perform 600 hours of clinical practice throughout the candidate's teacher preparation program, including, as a component of those hours, unpaid student teaching.

This bill would, contingent upon an appropriation of one-time funding by the Legislature, establish the California Student Teacher Support Grant Program, under the administration of the Commission on Teacher Credentialing, to award grants of an unspecified amount to teaching credential candidates to compensate the candidates while they perform the required student teaching. The bill would require stipends for each student teacher to be equal to the daily substitute teacher rate for the applicant local educational agency, as defined. In administering the grant program, the bill would require the commission to issue a request for applications to all local educational agencies in the state in order to solicit applications for funding. The bill would require the commission to adopt criteria for the selection of local educational agencies to participate in the grant program, including that the applicant local educational agency requires participating teaching credential candidates to pass a criminal background check before participating in the grant program and commit to accomplishing certain criteria, including completing their 600 hours of clinical practice that is required as part of the participant's teacher preparation program, as provided. The bill would require the commission to annually report to the education and policy committees of both houses of the Legislature certain information regarding the grant program, as provided.

~~Existing law requires the Commission on Teacher Credentialing to establish standards for the issuance and renewal of credentials, certificates, and permits. Existing law requires the commission to adopt a framework and general standards for the~~

~~accreditation of preparation programs teachers and other certificated educators, as provided. Existing law prescribes "clinical practice" as one of the commission-adopted standards and requires that teaching credential candidates perform 600 hours of clinical practice throughout the candidate's teacher preparation program, including, as a component of those hours, student teaching.~~

~~This bill would state the intent of the Legislature to enact future legislation that would compensate teaching credential candidates for their work as student teachers.~~

Vote: majority Appropriation: no Fiscal Committee: ~~no~~yes Local Program: no

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. *Section 44416.5 is added to the Education Code, to read:*

44416.5. *(a) To improve both teacher retention and recruitment in California's public school system, it is the intent of the Legislature to create a grant program to compensate student teachers in order to help alleviate financial stress at an important time in the teacher preparation process.*

(b) Subject to an appropriation of one-time funds by the Legislature for this purpose in the annual Budget Act or another statute, the California Student Teacher Support Grant Program is hereby established under the administration of the commission to compensate teaching credential candidates during the student teaching component of the 600 hours of clinical practice that is required as part of the candidate's teacher preparation program. Stipends for each student teacher shall be equal to the daily substitute teacher rate for the applicant local educational agency. The commission shall issue a request for applications to all local educational agencies to solicit applications for funding pursuant to this section and shall adopt criteria for the selection of local educational agencies to participate in the grant program. The criteria adopted by the commission shall include both of the following:

(1) An applicant local educational agency shall require participants to pass a criminal background check before participating in the grant program.

(2) An applicant local educational agency shall certify that it has received a commitment from each participant that the participant will accomplish both of the following:

(A) Complete all of the requirements for, and obtain, a multiple subject, single subject, or education specialist teaching credential.

(B) Complete their 600 hours of clinical practice that is required as part of the participant's teacher preparation program.

(c) Notwithstanding Section 10231.5 of the Government Code, the commission shall, on or before January 1 of each year, report to the education policy and fiscal committees of the Legislature regarding the status of the grant program, including, but not limited to, the number of student teachers paid, the degree to which the applicant meets the teacher shortage needs of the local educational agency, and the ethnic and racial composition of the participants in the program. The report shall be submitted in compliance with Section 9795 of the Government Code.

(d) For purposes of this section, "local educational agency" means a school district, charter school, or county office of education.

(e) It is the intent of the Legislature that any appropriation made to fund the grant program established by this section shall be applied toward the minimum funding requirements for school districts and community college districts imposed by Section 8 of Article XVI of the California Constitution.

~~**SECTION 1.** It is the intent of the Legislature to enact future legislation that would compensate teaching credential candidates for their work as student teachers.~~