

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2019

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HOUSE BILL 236

Short Title: Add World Languages/Teaching Fellows Program. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Insko, Lofton, Brockman, and Hardister (Primary Sponsors).
For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.

Referred to: Education - Universities, if favorable, Appropriations, Education, if favorable,
Appropriations, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

March 4, 2019

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO PROVIDE THAT TEACHER CANDIDATES PURSUING LICENSURE IN THE
AREA OF WORLD LANGUAGES ARE ELIGIBLE FOR THE NORTH CAROLINA
TEACHING FELLOWS PROGRAM.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. G.S. 116-209.62 reads as rewritten:

"§ 116-209.62. North Carolina Teaching Fellows Program established; administration.

(a) Program. – There is established the North Carolina Teaching Fellows Program to be administered by the System Office of The University of North Carolina, in conjunction with the Authority and the Commission. The purpose of the Program is to recruit, prepare, and support students residing in or attending institutions of higher education located in North Carolina for preparation as highly effective ~~STEM~~ or teachers in the areas of STEM, world languages, and special education ~~teachers to teach~~ in the State's public schools. The Program shall be used to provide a forgivable loan to individuals interested in preparing to teach in the public schools of the State in ~~STEM~~ STEM, world languages, or special education licensure areas.

(b) Trust Fund. – There is established the North Carolina Teaching Fellows Program Trust Fund to be administered by the Authority, in conjunction with the System Office of The University of North Carolina. All funds (i) appropriated to, or otherwise received by, the Program for forgivable loans and other Program purposes, (ii) received as repayment of forgivable loans, and (iii) earned as interest on these funds shall be placed in the Trust Fund. The purpose of the Trust Fund is to provide financial assistance to qualified students for completion of teacher education and licensure programs to fill ~~STEM~~ STEM, world languages, or special education licensure areas in the public schools of the State.

(c) Uses of Monies in the Trust Fund. – The monies in the Trust Fund may be used only for (i) forgivable loans granted under the Program, (ii) administrative costs associated with the Program, including recruitment and recovery of funds advanced under the Program, (iii) mentoring and coaching support to forgivable loan recipients, and (iv) extracurricular enhancement activities of the Program in accordance with the following:

- (1) The Authority shall transfer the greater of six hundred thousand dollars (\$600,000) or ten percent (10%) of the available funds from the Trust Fund to ~~the General Administration of The University of North Carolina~~ The University of North Carolina System Office at the beginning of each fiscal year for the Program's administrative costs, the salary of the Director of the Program and other Program staff, expenses of the Commission, and to provide



- 1 the Commission with funds to use for the extracurricular enhancement
2 activities of the Program.
- 3 (2) The Authority may use the greater of two hundred fifty thousand dollars
4 (\$250,000) or four percent (4%) of the funds appropriated to the Trust Fund
5 each fiscal year for administrative costs associated with the Program.
- 6 (3) The Authority shall provide the Commission with up to six hundred thousand
7 dollars (\$600,000) from the Trust Fund in each fiscal year for the Commission
8 to provide mentoring and coaching support to forgivable loan recipients
9 through the North Carolina New Teacher Support Program as follows:
- 10 a. Up to two thousand dollars (\$2,000) for each Program recipient
11 serving as a teacher in a North Carolina public school identified as
12 low-performing under G.S. 115C-105.37.
- 13 b. Up to one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for each Program recipient
14 serving as a teacher in a North Carolina public school not identified as
15 low-performing under G.S. 115C-105.37.
- 16 (d) Director of the Program. – The Board of Governors of The University of North
17 Carolina shall appoint a Director of the Program. The Director shall appoint staff to the
18 Commission and shall be responsible for recruitment and coordination of the Program, including
19 proactive, aggressive, and strategic recruitment of potential recipients. Recruitment activities
20 shall include (i) targeting regions of the State with the highest teacher attrition rates and teacher
21 recruitment challenges, (ii) actively engaging with educators, business leaders, experts in human
22 resources, elected officials, and other community leaders throughout the State, and (iii) attracting
23 candidates in ~~STEM-STEM~~, world languages, and special education licensure areas to the
24 Program. The Director shall report to the President of The University of North Carolina. The
25 Authority shall provide office space and clerical support staff, as necessary, to the Director for
26 the Program.
- 27 (e) Student Selection Criteria for Forgivable Loans. – The Commission shall adopt
28 stringent standards for awarding forgivable loans based on multiple measures to ensure that only
29 the strongest applicants receive them, including the following:
- 30 (1) Grade point averages.
- 31 (2) Performance on relevant career and college readiness assessments.
- 32 (3) Experience, accomplishments, and other criteria demonstrating qualities
33 positively correlated with highly effective teachers, including excellent verbal
34 and communication skills.
- 35 (4) Demonstrated commitment to serve in a ~~STEM-STEM~~, world languages, or
36 special education licensure area in North Carolina public schools.
- 37 (f) Program Selection Criteria. – The Authority shall administer the Program in
38 cooperation with five institutions of higher education with approved educator preparation
39 programs selected by the Commission that represent both postsecondary constituent institutions
40 of The University of North Carolina and private postsecondary institutions operating in the State.
41 The Commission shall adopt stringent standards for selection of the most effective educator
42 preparation programs, including the following:
- 43 (1) Demonstrates high rates of educator effectiveness on value-added models and
44 teacher evaluations, including using performance-based, subject-specific
45 assessment and support systems, such as edTPA or other metrics of evaluating
46 candidate effectiveness that have predictive validity.
- 47 (2) Demonstrates measurable impact of prior graduates on student learning,
48 including impact of graduates teaching in ~~STEM-STEM~~, world languages, or
49 special education licensure areas.
- 50 (3) Demonstrates high rates of graduates passing exams required for teacher
51 licensure.

- 1 (4) Provides curricular and co-curricular enhancements in leadership, facilitates
2 learning for diverse learners, and promotes community engagement,
3 classroom management, and reflection and assessment.
4 (5) Requires at least a minor concentration of study in the subject area that the
5 candidate may teach.
6 (6) Provides early and frequent internship or practical experiences, including the
7 opportunity for participants to perform practicums in diverse school
8 environments.
9 (7) Is approved by the State Board of Education as an educator preparation
10 program.

11 (g) Awards of Forgivable Loans. – The Program shall provide forgivable loans to selected
12 students to be used at the five selected institutions for completion of a program leading to initial
13 teacher licensure as follows:

- 14 (1) North Carolina high school seniors. – Forgivable loans of up to four thousand
15 one hundred twenty-five dollars (\$4,125) per semester for up to eight
16 semesters.
17 (2) Students applying for transfer to a selected educator preparation program at
18 an institution of higher education. – Forgivable loans of up to four thousand
19 one hundred twenty-five dollars (\$4,125) per semester for up to six semesters.
20 (3) Individuals currently holding a bachelor's degree seeking preparation for
21 teacher licensure. – Forgivable loans of up to four thousand one hundred
22 twenty-five dollars (\$4,125) per semester for up to four semesters.
23 (4) Students matriculating at institutions of higher education who are changing to
24 enrollment in a selected educator preparation program. – Forgivable loans of
25 up to four thousand one hundred twenty-five dollars (\$4,125) per semester for
26 up to four semesters.

27 Forgivable loans may be used for tuition, fees, the cost of books, and expenses related to
28 obtaining licensure.

29 (h) Identification of ~~STEM-STEM~~, World Languages, and Special Education Licensure
30 Areas. – The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall identify and provide to the Commission
31 and the Authority a list of ~~STEM-STEM~~, world languages, and special education licensure areas
32 and shall annually provide to the Commission the number of available positions in each licensure
33 area relative to the number of current and anticipated teachers in that area of licensure. The
34 Commission shall make the list of ~~STEM-STEM~~, world languages, and special education
35 licensure areas readily available to applicants.

36 (i) Administration of Forgivable Loan Awards. – Upon the naming of recipients of the
37 forgivable loans by the Commission, the Commission shall transfer to the Authority its decisions.
38 The Authority, in coordination with the Director, shall perform all of the administrative functions
39 necessary to implement this Part, which functions shall include rule making, disseminating
40 information, acting as a liaison with participating institutions of higher education, implementing
41 forgivable loan agreements, loan monitoring, loan cancelling through service and collection,
42 determining the acceptability of service repayment agreements, enforcing the agreements, and
43 all other functions necessary for the execution, payment, and enforcement of promissory notes
44 required under this Part.

45 (j) Annual Report. – The Commission, in coordination with the Authority, the
46 Department of Public Instruction, and the selected educator education programs participating in
47 the Program shall report no later than January 1, 2019, and annually thereafter, to the Joint
48 Legislative Education Oversight Committee regarding the following:

- 49 (1) Forgivable loans awarded from the Trust Fund, including the following:
50 a. Demographic information regarding recipients.
51 b. Number of recipients by institution of higher education and program.

- 1 c. Information on number of recipients by anticipated ~~STEM-STEM,~~
 2 world languages, and special education licensure area.
- 3 (2) Placement and repayment rates, including the following:
- 4 a. Number of graduates who have been employed in a ~~STEM-STEM,~~
 5 world languages, or special education licensure area within two years
 6 of program completion.
- 7 b. Number of graduates who accepted employment at a low-performing
 8 school identified under G.S. 115C-105.37 as part of their years of
 9 service.
- 10 c. Number of graduates who have elected to do loan repayment and their
 11 years of service, if any, prior to beginning loan repayment.
- 12 d. Number of graduates employed in a ~~STEM-STEM,~~ world languages,
 13 or special education licensure area who have received an overall rating
 14 of at least accomplished and have met expected growth on applicable
 15 standards of the teacher evaluation instrument.
- 16 e. Aggregate information on student growth and proficiency in courses
 17 taught by graduates who have fulfilled service requirements through
 18 employment in a ~~STEM-STEM,~~ world languages, or special education
 19 licensure area.
- 20 (2a) Mentoring and coaching support through the North Carolina New Teacher
 21 Support Program, including the following:
- 22 a. Number of forgivable loan recipients who received mentoring and
 23 coaching support when employed at a low-performing school
 24 identified under G.S. 115C-105.37.
- 25 b. Number of forgivable loan recipients who received mentoring and
 26 coaching support when employed at a school not identified as
 27 low-performing under G.S. 115C-105.37.
- 28 (3) Selected school outcomes by program, including the following:
- 29 a. Turnover rate for forgivable loan graduates, including the turnover rate
 30 for graduates who also received mentoring and coaching support
 31 through the North Carolina New Teacher Support Program.
- 32 b. Aggregate information on student growth and proficiency as provided
 33 annually by the State Board of Education to the Commission in courses
 34 taught by forgivable loan graduates.
- 35 c. Fulfillment rate of forgivable loan graduates."

36 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 116-209.63(b) reads as rewritten:

37 "(b) Forgiveness. – The Authority shall forgive the loan and any interest accrued on the
 38 loan if, within 10 years after graduation from a program leading to teacher licensure, exclusive
 39 of any authorized deferment for extenuating circumstances, the recipient serves as a teacher in a
 40 ~~STEM-STEM,~~ world languages, or special education licensure area, as provided in
 41 G.S. 116-209.62(h), for every year the teacher was awarded the forgivable loan, in any
 42 combination of the following:

- 43 (1) One year at a North Carolina public school identified as low-performing under
 44 G.S. 115C-105.37 at the time the teacher accepts employment at the school
 45 or, if the teacher changes employment during this period, at another school
 46 identified as low-performing.
- 47 (2) Two years at a North Carolina public school not identified as low-performing
 48 under G.S. 115C-105.37.

49 The Authority shall also forgive the loan if it finds that it is impossible for the recipient to
 50 work for up to eight years, within 10 years after completion of the program leading to teacher
 51 licensure, at a North Carolina public school because of the death or permanent disability of the

1 recipient. If the recipient repays the forgivable loan by cash payments, all indebtedness shall be
2 repaid within 10 years after completion of the program leading to teacher licensure supported by
3 the forgivable loan. If the recipient completes a program leading to teacher licensure, payment
4 of principal and interest shall begin no later than the first day of September after the completion
5 of the program. Should a recipient present extenuating circumstances, the Authority may extend
6 the period to repay the loan in cash to no more than a total of 12 years."

7 **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2019, and applies beginning with
8 the award of forgivable loans for the 2020-2021 academic year.