

HOUSE BILL No. 2627

By Representative Poskin

2-8

1 AN ACT establishing the aspiring future teacher of the year scholarship
2 and grant program; making and concerning appropriations for the fiscal
3 years ending June 30, 2023, June 30, 2024, June 30, 2025, June 30,
4 2026, and June 30, 2027, for the department of education for such
5 scholarships and grants.

6

7 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

8

Section 1.

9

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

10 (a) There is appropriated for the above agency from the state general
11 fund for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, the following:

12 Aspiring future teacher of the year scholarship program\$160,000

13 Aspiring teacher of the year grant program\$20,000

14

Sec. 2.

15

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

16 (a) There is appropriated for the above agency from the state general
17 fund for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, the following:

18 Aspiring future teacher of the year scholarship program\$160,000

19 *Provided*, That any unencumbered balance in the aspiring future teacher of
20 the year scholarship program account in excess of \$100 as of June 30,
21 2023, is hereby reappropriated for fiscal year 2024.

22 Aspiring teacher of the year grant program\$20,000

23 *Provided*, That any unencumbered balance in the aspiring teacher of the
24 year grant program account in excess of \$100 as of June 30, 2023, is
25 hereby reappropriated for fiscal year 2024.

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Sec. 3.

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

28 (a) There is appropriated for the above agency from the state general
29 fund for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, the following:

30 Aspiring future teacher of the year scholarship program\$160,000

31 *Provided*, That any unencumbered balance in the aspiring future teacher of
32 the year scholarship program account in excess of \$100 as of June 30,
33 2024, is hereby reappropriated for fiscal year 2025.

34 Aspiring teacher of the year grant program\$20,000

35 *Provided*, That any unencumbered balance in the aspiring teacher of the
36 year grant program account in excess of \$100 as of June 30, 2024, is

1 hereby reappropriated for fiscal year 2025.

2 Sec. 4.

3 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

4 (a) There is appropriated for the above agency from the state general
5 fund for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the following:

6 Aspiring future teacher of the year scholarship program\$160,000

7 *Provided*, That any unencumbered balance in the aspiring future teacher of
8 the year scholarship program account in excess of \$100 as of June 30,
9 2025, is hereby reappropriated for fiscal year 2026.

10 Aspiring teacher of the year grant program\$20,000

11 *Provided*, That any unencumbered balance in the aspiring teacher of the
12 year grant program account in excess of \$100 as of June 30, 2025, is
13 hereby reappropriated for fiscal year 2026.

14 Sec. 5.

15 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

16 (a) There is appropriated for the above agency from the state general
17 fund for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

18 Aspiring future teacher of the year scholarship program\$160,000

19 *Provided*, That any unencumbered balance in the aspiring future teacher of
20 the year scholarship program account in excess of \$100 as of June 30,
21 2026, is hereby reappropriated for fiscal year 2027.

22 Aspiring teacher of the year grant program\$20,000

23 *Provided*, That any unencumbered balance in the aspiring teacher of the
24 year grant program account in excess of \$100 as of June 30, 2026, is
25 hereby reappropriated for fiscal year 2027.

26 Sec. 6. Sections 6 through 10, and amendments thereto, shall be
27 known and may be cited as the aspiring future teacher of the year
28 scholarship and grant program act.

29 Sec. 7. As used in the aspiring future teacher of the year scholarship
30 and grant program act:

31 (a) "Postsecondary educational institution" means the same as defined
32 in K.S.A. 74-3201b, and amendments thereto.

33 (b) "Private independent postsecondary educational institution"
34 means any not-for-profit institution of postsecondary education with its
35 main campus or principal place of operation in Kansas that is operated
36 independently and not controlled or administered by any state agency or
37 subdivision of the state, maintains open enrollment and is accredited by a
38 nationally recognized accrediting agency for higher education in the
39 United States.

40 (c) "Qualified student" means a person who: (1) Is a resident of the
41 state of Kansas; and (2) has been accepted for admission to or is enrolled
42 in a course of instruction leading to licensure as a teacher in a
43 postsecondary educational institution or private independent

1 postsecondary educational institution.

2 Sec. 8. (a) There is hereby established the aspiring future teacher of
3 the year scholarship and grant program.

4 (b) (1) A scholarship may be awarded under the program to any
5 qualified student and may be renewed for each such student who remains
6 qualified for the scholarship. Determination of the students qualified for
7 such scholarships shall be made by the commissioner of education. In
8 making such determination, the commissioner shall consult with the
9 immediately preceding school year's recipients of the Kansas teacher of
10 the year award. To the extent practicable, the scholarships shall be
11 awarded to qualified applicants who have similar backgrounds and
12 attributes of such recipients.

13 (2) Within the limitations of appropriations therefor, eight
14 scholarships shall be awarded annually, and the amount awarded to each
15 applicant shall be \$2,500 each semester.

16 (3) If a student is not enrolled on a full-time basis, a student shall
17 complete the course of study within the time period specified in the
18 agreement and shall receive a proportionate amount of the scholarship
19 allowed under subsection (b)(2) based upon the number of hours enrolled
20 in an academic period and computed as a fraction of the total number of
21 credit hours required for full-time enrollment.

22 (c) (1) A grant may be awarded under the program to any unified
23 school district that hires a teacher pursuant to this subsection.
24 Determination of the grantees shall be made by the commissioner of
25 education. In making such determination, the commissioner shall consult
26 with the immediately preceding school year's recipients of the Kansas
27 teacher of the year award. To the extent practicable, the grants shall be
28 awarded to unified school districts that hire a teacher who has similar
29 background and attributes of such recipients.

30 (2) Within the limitations of appropriations therefor, eight grants shall
31 be awarded annually and the amount awarded to each grantee shall be
32 \$2,500. The moneys shall be used by the grantees as a hiring bonus to the
33 teacher.

34 Sec. 9. (a) An applicant for designation as a qualified student and for
35 the award of a scholarship under the aspiring future teacher of the year
36 scholarship and grant program shall provide to the commissioner of
37 education, on forms supplied by the commissioner, information required
38 by the commissioner.

39 (b) As a condition to awarding a scholarship under this act, the
40 commissioner and the applicant shall enter into an agreement, which shall
41 require the applicant to:

42 (1) Complete the required course of instruction as specified in the
43 agreement;

1 (2) obtain and maintain necessary licensure as specified in the
2 agreement;

3 (3) engage in teaching in Kansas and comply with such other terms
4 and conditions as may be specified by such agreement;

5 (4) commence teaching on a full-time basis in Kansas within six
6 months after licensure in an accredited public elementary or secondary
7 school in accordance with the agreement and continue teaching on a full-
8 time basis for a period of not less than two years; and

9 (5) maintain records and make reports to the commissioner as
10 required by the commissioner to document the satisfaction of the
11 obligations under this act and the agreement.

12 Sec. 10. The state board of education shall adopt rules and regulations
13 for the administration of the aspiring future teacher of the year scholarship
14 and grant program and establish terms, conditions and obligations, which
15 shall be incorporated into the provisions of any agreement entered into
16 between the commissioner of education and an applicant for the award of a
17 scholarship under the program or between the commissioner of education
18 and a grantee under the program. The terms, conditions and obligations
19 shall be consistent with the provisions of law relating to the program.

20 Sec. 11. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
21 publication in the statute book.