

ASSEMBLY, No. 5311

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

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SYNOPSIS

Establishes Teacher Apprenticeship Program.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/22/2021)

1 AN ACT establishing a Teacher Apprenticeship Program and
2 supplementing chapter 6 of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

3

4 BE IT ENACTED *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

6

7 1. As used in this act:

8 “Commissioner” means the Commissioner of Education.

9 “Field experience” means observing and assisting with student
10 learning which may include, but is not limited to, providing
11 operational support to public schools; assisting instructional staff
12 with data entry, grading, lesson planning, parental communication,
13 and assessment development; and conducting classroom instruction.

14 “Paraprofessional” means an individual who is employed in a
15 public school as a school aide or classroom aide who assists a
16 teaching staff member with the supervision of pupil activities.

17 “Program” means the Teacher Apprenticeship Program
18 established pursuant to section 2 of this act.

19 “Program participant” means a public high school student
20 entering grade 12 and a paraprofessional with an associate degree
21 who has been accepted into the Teacher Apprenticeship Program.

22 “Public school” means a school district, charter school, and
23 renaissance school in the State.

24 “Secretary” means the Secretary of Higher Education.

25

26 2. The Commissioner of Education, in coordination with the
27 Secretary of Higher Education, shall establish a Teacher
28 Apprenticeship Program, the purpose of which shall be to offer
29 stipends and provide program participants with the education and
30 field experience necessary to obtain a New Jersey certificate of
31 eligibility with advanced standing.

32

33 3. a. A public school and an accredited four-year institution of
34 higher education with a Department of Education approved
35 educator preparation program that wish to offer the Teacher
36 Apprenticeship Program shall jointly apply to the Department of
37 Education in such manner as determined by the commissioner in
38 consultation with the secretary. The application shall include, but
39 not be limited to:

40 (1) a dual enrollment agreement between the public school and
41 institution of higher education;

42 (2) the number of teachers in the public school and faculty at the
43 institution of higher education available to provide college level
44 instruction in connection with the program; and

45 (3) a program implementation plan which includes information
46 on the types of services in place to support students enrolled in the
47 program.

1 b. A public school and institution of higher education selected
2 to offer the program shall jointly enter into an agreement with the
3 department in which the public school and institution of higher
4 education agree to provide program participants with the education
5 and field experience necessary to obtain a certificate of eligibility
6 with advanced standing.

7
8 4. The Teacher Apprenticeship Program shall be comprised of
9 three stages during which a program participant shall complete the
10 coursework and field experience necessary to obtain a certificate of
11 eligibility with advanced standing.

12 a. Stage one of the program shall be open to high school
13 students entering grade 12. A program participant who completes
14 stage one of the program shall be awarded a School Apprentice
15 credential. In order to complete stage one, a program participant
16 shall:

17 (1) earn 30 college credits in accordance with State Board of
18 Education regulations;

19 (2) author a literature review on a topic approved by the
20 program participant's academic advisor;

21 (3) perform 200 hours of field experience; and

22 (4) pass a commissioner-approved paraprofessional general
23 aptitude exam.

24 b. Stage two of the program shall be open to individuals with a
25 School Apprentice credential and paraprofessionals with an
26 associate degree. A program participant who completes stage two
27 of the program shall be awarded a Teacher Apprentice I credential.
28 In order to complete stage two, a program participant shall:

29 (1) earn a cumulative total of 90 college credits in accordance
30 with State Board of Education regulations;

31 (2) perform 1500 hours of field experience per year; and

32 (3) pass an appropriate State test of subject matter knowledge.

33 c. Stage three of the program shall be open to individuals with
34 a Teacher Apprentice I credential. A program participant who
35 completes stage three of the program shall be awarded a Teacher
36 Apprentice II credential. In order to complete stage three, the
37 program participant shall:

38 (1) earn a cumulative total of 120 college credits in accordance
39 with State Board of Education regulations;

40 (2) perform 1500 hours of field experience per year;

41 (3) complete all necessary requirements for and obtain a
42 bachelor's degree; and

43 (4) pass a commissioner-approved performance-based
44 assessment.

45 d. An individual who possesses a Teacher Apprentice II
46 credential awarded pursuant to the provisions of this act and meets
47 the general certification requirements including, but not limited to,
48 citizenship, age, and examination requirements, established by the

- 1 State Board of Education shall be eligible for a certificate of
2 eligibility with advanced standing.
3
- 4 5. To be eligible to participate in the program, an applicant
5 shall:
- 6 a. be a resident of New Jersey;
7 b. if a high school student:
8 (1) pass a background check administered by the Department of
9 Education; and
10 (2) have a minimum cumulative grade point average of a 3.0 on
11 a scale of 4.0, or its equivalent, at the time of application to the
12 program; and
13 c. if a paraprofessional with an associate degree, have
14 graduated from a county college with a minimum cumulative grade
15 point average of a 3.0 on a scale of 4.0, or its equivalent.
16
- 17 6. a. A high school student who wishes to participate in the
18 program shall submit an application to the public school in which
19 the student is enrolled and to the institution of higher education that
20 has partnered with the public school to offer the program. The
21 application, which shall be submitted by the end of the fall semester
22 of the applicant's junior year of high school, shall include:
23 (1) an official high school transcript;
24 (2) a personal statement detailing the applicant's reasons for
25 applying to the program;
26 (3) two letters of recommendation; and
27 (4) any other information the commissioner and secretary deem
28 appropriate.
- 29 b. A paraprofessional with an associate degree who wishes to
30 participate in the program shall submit an application to the public
31 school in which the paraprofessional is employed or to a public
32 school located in the school district in which the paraprofessional
33 resides and to the institution of higher education that has partnered
34 with the public school to offer the program. The application shall
35 include:
36 (1) official transcripts from each county college the
37 paraprofessional has attended;
38 (2) a personal statement detailing the applicant's reasons for
39 applying to the program;
40 (3) three letters of recommendation, one of which shall be from
41 a current supervisor, principal, or employing public school's human
42 resource officer; and
43 (4) any other information the commissioner and secretary deem
44 appropriate.
- 45 c. The public school and the institution of higher education that
46 has partnered with the public school shall jointly select the
47 applicants for participation in the program.

1 Apprenticeship Program is open to public high school students
2 entering grade 12 and paraprofessionals with an associate degree
3 who are employed in a public school. Under the bill, a public
4 school includes school districts, charter schools, and renaissance
5 schools.

6 Under the bill, a public school and accredited four-year
7 institution of higher education that wish to offer the program will
8 submit an application to the Department of Education that includes:
9 (1) a dual enrollment agreement between the public school and
10 institution of higher education; (2) the number of teachers in the
11 public school and faculty at the institution of higher education
12 available to provide college level instruction in connection with the
13 program; and (3) a program implementation plan that includes
14 information on the types of services in place to support students
15 enrolled in the program. A public school and institution of higher
16 education chosen to offer the program will jointly enter into an
17 agreement with the department in which the public school and
18 institution of higher education agree to provide program
19 participants with the education and field experience necessary to
20 obtain a CEAS.

21 Under this bill, the Teacher Apprenticeship program will be
22 comprised of three stages. During stage one, which is open to high
23 school students entering grade 12, a program participant will (1)
24 earn 30 college credits in accordance with State Board of Education
25 regulations; (2) author a literature review on a topic approved by
26 the student's academic advisor; (3) perform 200 hours of field
27 experience; and (4) pass a commissioner-approved paraprofessional
28 general aptitude exam. During stage two, which is open to
29 individuals who have completed stage one of the program and
30 paraprofessionals with an associate degree, a program participant
31 will (1) earn a cumulative total of 90 college credits; (2) perform
32 1500 hours of field experience per year; and (3) pass the appropriate
33 State test of subject matter knowledge. During stage three, which is
34 open to individuals who have completed stage two of the program, a
35 program participant will (1) earn a cumulative total of 120 college
36 credits; (2) perform 1500 hours of field experience per year; (3)
37 complete all necessary requirements for and obtain a bachelor's
38 degree; and (4) pass a commissioner-approved performance-based
39 assessment. Individuals who complete stage three of the program
40 will be awarded a Teacher Apprentice II credential. Individuals
41 with a Teacher Apprentice II credential who meet the general
42 certification requirements established by the State Board of
43 Education will be eligible for a CEAS.

44 Under the bill, a program applicant must meet certain eligibility
45 criteria. The applicant must be a New Jersey resident; if a high
46 school student, pass a background check and have a minimum
47 cumulative GPA of a 3.0 at the time of application; and if a

1 paraprofessional applicant, have had a minimum cumulative GPA
2 of a 3.0 upon graduation from a county college.

3 This bill directs high school students to submit an application to
4 the public school in which the student is enrolled and to the
5 institution of higher education that has partnered with the public
6 school to offer the program. A paraprofessional will submit an
7 application to a public school where the paraprofessional is
8 employed or to a public school located in the school district in
9 which the paraprofessional resides and to the institution of higher
10 education that has partnered with the public school to offer the
11 program. The public school and institution of higher education that
12 has partnered with the public school will jointly select the
13 applicants for participation in the program.

14 Under the bill, a program participant will receive a yearly
15 stipend award, which will be distributed in such manner as
16 determined by the commissioner and secretary. The stipends will
17 be awarded as follows: (1) \$2,000 during stage one of the program;
18 (2) \$10,000 per year during stage two of the program; and (3)
19 \$15,000 during stage three of the program. In order to receive the
20 full stipend award during stages two and three, the program
21 participant must be enrolled full-time in an institution of higher
22 education and complete all required hours of field experience. The
23 commissioner, in consultation with the secretary, may authorize
24 partial distribution of the stipend award when a program participant
25 is unable to enroll full-time in a course of study or fails to complete
26 the required hours of field experience.

27 Finally, under the bill, a program participant must adhere to
28 performance standards that include: (1) maintaining residency in the
29 State; (2) maintaining a minimum cumulative GPA of a 3.0 while
30 enrolled in the program; and (3) maintaining satisfactory
31 performance of field experience services rendered during the
32 program.