

Legislative Analysis



ESTABLISH GRANT PROGRAM FOR STIPENDS TO STUDENT TEACHERS AND MENTOR TEACHERS

Phone: (517) 373-8080
<http://www.house.mi.gov/hfa>

House Bill 6013 as reported from committee

Sponsor: Rep. Pamela Hornberger

Committee: Education

Complete to 6-9-22

Analysis available at
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

SUMMARY:

House Bill 6013 would add a new section to the Revised School Code to establish a grant program, to be created and administered by the Michigan Department of Education (MDE), that would distribute funds to applicant intermediate school districts, school districts, and public school academies to pay student teachers and mentor teachers.

Mentor teachers would receive \$1,000 for serving in their role as a mentor teacher, and student teachers would receive \$90 for each day they work as a student teacher. These stipends would be paid out during the school year in which the grant is received by the employing intermediate school district, school district, or public school academy. MDE would be responsible for creating the application process as well as distributing the funds.

The bill also states that the legislature shall appropriate sufficient funding to fund the grant program, although it is not tie-barred to a bill appropriating funding.

Proposed MCL 380.1531e

BRIEF DISCUSSION:

As part of Michigan's traditional pathway to becoming a certified teacher, an individual must complete at least 400 clinical hours, divided between an apprenticeship and an internship, plus an additional 200 flex hours. Of the required apprenticeship and internship hours, at least 370 must be student contact hours. Activities that count toward the student contact hours may include intentional observation of masterful teaching with accompanying reflection and debriefing of how the activities connect to the teacher preparation curriculum, co-planning and co-teaching with a masterful mentor teacher, co-assessing and analyzing resultant student work, participating in guided and supervised teaching of individual students as well as small groups and whole classrooms, and collaboration with education professionals.¹

Teacher candidates are typically not compensated for hours spent working in schools and pay to complete their certification program. Depending on where a candidate obtains a placement for their internship (typically a year under the traditional college preparation program), they will also incur additional costs commuting to the location of their internship or renting housing, resulting in a situation where the student teacher is paying for the ability to work for free. With a shortage of certified educators in Michigan, the bill seeks to remedy this dynamic.

¹ From the Michigan Department of Education: https://www.michigan.gov/-/media/Project/Websites/mde/educator_services/prep/clinical_experiences_requirements.pdf

While the bill does not define what experiences would constitute “student teaching” for purposes of establishing eligibility for the \$90 daily stipend, individuals should be able to offset a portion of their expenses if their school is a recipient of grant dollars through the program created by the bill.

While also not defined by the bill, “mentor teacher” ostensibly refers to the certified educators who mentor teachers during their placement. The Revised School Code also references master teachers, who mentor certified teachers during their first three years of employment in classroom teaching, and it is unclear if those mentor teachers would also be eligible for the \$1,000 stipend created by the bill.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The bill would have no fiscal impact for the state or local units of government because the requirements of the bill are contingent on the direct appropriation of funds.

POSITIONS:

The following entities indicated support for the bill (5-17-22):

- Michigan Department of Education
- Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals
- Middle Cities Education Association
- Michigan Association of School Boards

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■ This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House Fiscal Agency staff for use by House members in their deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.