

**First Regular Session
Seventy-fourth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 23-0058.01 Alana Rosen x2606

HOUSE BILL 23-1001

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Kipp and McLachlan,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Zenzinger,

House Committees
Education

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING EXPANDING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR EDUCATOR**
102 **PROGRAMS.**

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)

For educator preparation stipend programs, current law defines "eligible student" to mean a student who is eligible for financial assistance because the student's expected family contribution does not exceed 200% of the maximum federal Pell-eligible expected family contribution. The bill amends the definition of "eligible student" to mean a student who is eligible for financial assistance because the student's expected family contribution does not exceed 250% of the maximum

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

federal Pell-eligible expected family contribution.

Current law requires that a student eligible for the student educator stipend program must be placed as a student educator in a school- or community-based setting in Colorado. The bill allows a student to be placed as a student educator in a school- or community-based setting in Colorado or within 100 miles of the Colorado state border.

The bill creates an exception to the student educator stipend program and the educator test stipend program for funds appropriated to the department of higher education from the economic recovery and relief cash fund. The Colorado commission on higher education (commission) is authorized to approve criteria for students who qualify for the student educator stipend program and the educator test stipend program. For the student educator stipend program, the commission is required, first, to consider students with an expected family contribution that does not exceed 300% of the maximum federal Pell-eligible expected family contribution. For the educator test stipend program, the commission is required, first, to consider students with an expected family contribution that does not exceed 300% of the maximum federal Pell-eligible expected family contribution and, second, to consider graduates of an approved program of preparation who were placed as student educators before passing the assessment of professional competencies in state fiscal years 2019-20, 2020-21, and 2021-22.

Current law requires eligible applicants for the temporary educator loan forgiveness program (forgiveness program) to be educators licensed as teachers or school counselors. The bill broadens the program requirements to allow eligible applicants to be educators licensed as principals or special service providers.

The bill broadens the requirements of the forgiveness program. The commission is required, first, to consider applicants who hold educator licenses and prioritize the approval of those applications based on the length of time each applicant has been employed under the license, beginning with those who have been employed the shortest length of time. The bill removes the forgiveness program requirement that the commission approves applicants who have contracted for a qualified position in a rural school or a rural school district or in a content shortage area whose percentage of at-risk pupils exceeded 60% in the 2021-22 budget year.

1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-3.9-301, **amend**

3 (7) and (12) as follows:

4 **23-3.9-301. Definitions - repeal.** As used in this part 3, unless the

1 context otherwise requires:

2 (7) "Eligible student" means a student who is:

3 (a) Enrolled in an approved program of preparation; ~~and~~

4 (b) Eligible for financial assistance because the student's expected
5 family contribution does not exceed two hundred FIFTY percent of the
6 maximum federal Pell-eligible expected family contribution; AND

7 (c) (I) FOR THE 2023-24 STATE FISCAL YEAR, ELIGIBLE FOR
8 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE BECAUSE THE STUDENT'S EXPECTED FAMILY
9 CONTRIBUTION DOES NOT EXCEED THREE HUNDRED PERCENT OF THE
10 MAXIMUM FEDERAL PELL-ELIGIBLE EXPECTED FAMILY CONTRIBUTION.

11 (II) THIS SUBSECTION (7)(c) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 31,
12 2027.

13 (12) "Teacher" means a person employed to instruct students
14 enrolled in a public school. ~~in the state.~~

15 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-3.9-302, **amend**
16 (2)(a); and **add** (4)(c.5) as follows:

17 **23-3.9-302. Student educator stipend program - created -**
18 **guidelines - definition - repeal.** (2) (a) To qualify to participate in the
19 stipend program, a student must be an eligible student and placed as a
20 student educator IN COLORADO OR WITHIN ONE HUNDRED MILES OF THE
21 COLORADO STATE BORDER. No later than July 1, 2022, and no later than
22 July 1 each year thereafter, each approved program of preparation shall
23 notify the department of the eligible students who qualify for the stipend
24 program.

25 (4) (c.5) FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SUBSECTION (4) ONLY, THE
26 COMMISSION SHALL APPROVE THE CRITERIA OF ELIGIBLE STUDENTS,
27 INCLUDING FIRST CONSIDERATION FOR STUDENTS WHOSE EXPECTED

1 FAMILY CONTRIBUTION DOES NOT EXCEED THREE HUNDRED PERCENT OF
2 THE MAXIMUM FEDERAL PELL-ELIGIBLE EXPECTED FAMILY CONTRIBUTION.

3 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-3.9-303, **add**
4 (4)(c.5) as follows:

5 **23-3.9-303. Educator test stipend program - created -**
6 **guidelines - repeal.** (4) (c.5) FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SUBSECTION (4)
7 ONLY, THE COMMISSION SHALL APPROVE THE CRITERIA OF ELIGIBLE
8 STUDENTS, INCLUDING:

9 (I) FIRST, CONSIDERATION FOR ELIGIBLE STUDENTS WHOSE
10 EXPECTED FAMILY CONTRIBUTION DOES NOT EXCEED THREE HUNDRED
11 PERCENT OF THE MAXIMUM FEDERAL PELL-ELIGIBLE EXPECTED FAMILY
12 CONTRIBUTION; AND

13 (II) SECOND, CONSIDERATION FOR GRADUATES OF AN APPROVED
14 PROGRAM OF PREPARATION WHO WERE PLACED AS STUDENT EDUCATORS
15 BEFORE PASSING THE ASSESSMENT OF PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCIES IN
16 STATE FISCAL YEARS 2019-20, 2020-21, AND 2021-22.

17 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-3.9-401, **amend**
18 (4) and (7); and **repeal** (1) and (2) as follows:

19 **23-3.9-401. Definitions.** As used in this part 4, unless the context
20 otherwise requires:

21 (1) ~~"Approved program of preparation" means a program of study~~
22 ~~for preparation that is approved by the Colorado commission on higher~~
23 ~~education pursuant to section 23-1-121, including a preparation program~~
24 ~~for school counselors or an alternative teacher program, as defined in~~
25 ~~section 22-60.5-102 (5), and that upon completion leads to a~~
26 ~~recommendation for licensure by an accepted institution of higher~~
27 ~~education, as defined in section 22-60.5-102 (1).~~

1 (2) ~~"At-risk pupils" has the same meaning as set forth in section~~
2 ~~22-54-103 (1.5)(a)(VI).~~

3 (4) "Educator" means a teacher, ~~or school counselor~~ PRINCIPAL,
4 OR SPECIAL SERVICES PROVIDER AS DEFINED IN SECTION 22-60.5-102 (19).

5 (7) "Qualified position" means:

6 (a) A hard-to-staff educator position in a rural school or rural
7 school district, or in a facility school that is in a rural school district,
8 identified by the department of education pursuant to section 23-3.9-102
9 (6); ~~or~~

10 (b) A hard-to-staff educator position in a content shortage area
11 identified pursuant to section 23-3.9-102 (6) in a Colorado public school,
12 a school operated by a board of cooperative services created pursuant to
13 article 5 of title 22, or a facility school; OR

14 (c) AN EDUCATOR POSITION IN A COLORADO PUBLIC SCHOOL, A
15 SCHOOL OPERATED BY A BOARD OF COOPERATIVE SERVICES CREATED
16 PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 5 OF TITLE 22, OR A FACILITY SCHOOL.

17 **SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-3.9-402, **amend**
18 (1)(c) and (2)(b); **repeal** (2)(a) and (2)(c); and **add** (1)(d) as follows:

19 **23-3.9-402. Temporary educator loan forgiveness program -**
20 **administration - eligibility.** (1) (c) No later than July 1, ~~2022~~ 2023, the
21 commission shall approve applications. If more new participants apply
22 than can be approved based on the money available, the commission
23 shall:

24 (I) First, approve applicants who have contracted for a qualified
25 position in a rural school district or rural school; ~~whose percentage of~~
26 ~~at-risk pupils exceeded sixty percent in the 2021-22 budget year;~~

27 (II) Second, approve applicants who have contracted for a

1 qualified position in a content shortage area; ~~with a school whose~~
2 ~~percentage of at-risk pupils exceeded sixty percent in the 2021-22 budget~~
3 ~~year;~~ AND

4 (III) Third, approve applicants who have contracted for a qualified
5 position in a ~~rural school district or rural school;~~ and COLORADO PUBLIC
6 SCHOOL, A SCHOOL OPERATED BY A BOARD OF COOPERATIVE SERVICES
7 CREATED PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 5 OF TITLE 22, OR A FACILITY SCHOOL.

8 (IV) ~~Fourth, approve applicants who have contracted with a~~
9 ~~school for a qualified position in a content shortage area.~~

10 (d) IN APPROVING APPLICATIONS FOR EACH GROUP OF APPLICANTS
11 IDENTIFIED IN SUBSECTIONS (1)(c)(I), (1)(c)(II), AND (1)(c)(III) OF THIS
12 SECTION, THE COMMISSION SHALL FIRST CONSIDER THOSE APPLICANTS
13 WHO HOLD EDUCATOR LICENSES PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 60.5 OF TITLE 22
14 AND PRIORITIZE THE APPROVAL OF THOSE APPLICATIONS BASED ON THE
15 LENGTH OF TIME EACH APPLICANT HAS BEEN EMPLOYED UNDER THE
16 LICENSE, BEGINNING WITH THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN EMPLOYED THE
17 SHORTEST LENGTH OF TIME.

18 (2) In addition to any qualifications the commission specifies, to
19 qualify for the temporary educator loan forgiveness program, an educator
20 must:

21 (a) ~~Graduate from a program of preparation that leads to educator~~
22 ~~licensure pursuant to article 60.5 of title 22;~~

23 (b) Meet licensure requirements pursuant to ~~section 22-60.5-201~~
24 ~~(1)(a) or (1)(b) or 22-60.5-210 (1)(a)~~ ARTICLE 60.5 OF TITLE 22; AND

25 (c) ~~Enter the educator workforce on or after the 2019-20 state~~
26 ~~fiscal year and contract for a qualified position no later than the end of the~~
27 ~~2021-22 state fiscal year; and~~

1 **SECTION 6. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,
2 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
3 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.