

HOUSE BILL No. 2378

By Committee on Appropriations

2-19

1 AN ACT concerning schools; establishing the Kansas legislature award for
2 teaching excellence program.

3
4 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

5 Section 1. (a) The Kansas legislature award for teaching excellence
6 program is hereby established for the purposes of: (1) Recognizing and
7 rewarding the top outstanding elementary and secondary Kansas public
8 school teachers and their schools; (2) attracting, rewarding and retaining
9 outstanding teachers; and (3) encouraging the pursuit of teaching
10 excellence. The Kansas legislature declares that providing Kansas children
11 with a quality education through effective teaching is one of the core
12 functions of state government and is vitally important to the workforce
13 development needs and future economic success of our state.

14 (b) The Kansas legislature award for teaching excellence program
15 shall be administered by the Kansas legislature award for teaching
16 excellence selection committee as provided for by subsection (c).

17 (c) (1) There is hereby established the Kansas legislature award for
18 teaching excellence selection committee. The committee shall be
19 composed of 13 members as follows:

20 (A) One member of the Kansas association of secondary school
21 principals appointed by such association who serves as a high school
22 principal, and such member shall serve for a term of one year;

23 (B) one member of the Kansas association of middle school
24 administrators appointed by such association who serves as a middle
25 school principal, and such member shall serve for a term of one year;

26 (C) one member of the Kansas association of elementary school
27 principals appointed by such association who serves as an elementary
28 school principal, and such member shall serve for a term of one year;

29 (D) one member of the Kansas school superintendents association
30 appointed by such association, and such member shall serve for a term of
31 one year;

32 (E) two members of the Kansas business community appointed by the
33 speaker of the house of representatives, and such members shall serve for
34 terms of two years;

35 (F) two members of the Kansas business community appointed by the
36 president of the senate, and such members shall serve for terms of two

1 years;

2 (G) one member of the house of representatives appointed by the
3 speaker of the house of representatives, and such member shall serve for a
4 term of one year;

5 (H) one member of the house of representatives appointed by the
6 minority leader of the house of representatives, and such member shall
7 serve for a term of one year;

8 (I) one member of the senate appointed by the president of the senate,
9 and such member shall serve for a term of one year;

10 (J) one member of the senate appointed by the minority leader of the
11 senate, and such member shall serve for a term of one year; and

12 (K) the person who was designated teacher of the year in the prior
13 school year, and such member shall serve for a term of one year.

14 (2) All members of the committee shall serve without compensation
15 or reimbursement for travel and subsistence or any other expenses.

16 (3) All vacancies in the membership of the committee shall be filled
17 in the same manner as originally filled.

18 (d) The committee shall decide the process for nominating teachers
19 for awards under the program. The application for such nomination shall
20 be submitted in such form and manner as prescribed by the committee and
21 shall contain such information as the committee shall require.

22 (e) (1) Each school year, within the limitations of appropriations
23 therefor, the committee shall select at least 15 elementary and secondary
24 Kansas public school teachers from applicants based on the criteria
25 specified in paragraph (2). Of the 15 teachers selected, there shall be at
26 least three teachers from each congressional district. The committee shall
27 select and award such teachers in the following manner:

28 (A) One teacher as the program's most outstanding teacher. Such
29 teacher shall be designated as the Kansas legislature teacher of the year
30 and receive an award in the amount of \$20,000;

31 (B) four teachers as finalists. Each such teacher shall receive an
32 award in an amount of \$15,000;

33 (C) at least 10 teachers as semi-finalists. Each such teacher shall
34 receive an award in an amount of \$10,000; and

35 (D) the schools from which the top teachers have been selected in
36 accordance with this section shall each receive \$10,000. Such moneys
37 shall be deposited by the school in accordance with subsection (g).

38 (2) The criteria for selecting teachers for awards under this program
39 shall include, but not be limited to:

40 (A) Effective instructional practices;

41 (B) improvement in student achievement; and

42 (C) teacher attributes that engage, motivate and inspire students,
43 colleagues and the community.

1 (3) If the aggregate amount of moneys appropriated to the Kansas
2 legislature award for teaching excellence fund when added to any gifts and
3 donations credited to such fund is less than the total dollar amount of
4 awards to be distributed under this program, the committee shall reduce
5 the number of program awards for teachers who are recognized as semi-
6 finalists and the schools of such teachers.

7 (4) No moneys received by any teacher under this program shall be
8 construed to be an employment incentive or retention bonus as authorized
9 by K.S.A. 72-8246, and amendments thereto.

10 (f) There is hereby established in the state treasury the Kansas
11 legislature award for teaching excellence fund. Expenditures from the fund
12 shall be made for the purpose of financing and administering the program
13 awards under subsection (e). All such expenditures shall be authorized by
14 the committee and made upon warrants of the director of accounts and
15 reports issued pursuant to vouchers approved by the committee. The
16 committee may accept gifts and donations directly designated for the
17 benefit of the program. Such gifts and donations shall be deposited into the
18 Kansas legislature award for teaching excellence fund within seven
19 business days after receipt.

20 (g) Upon receipt of an award by a school under subsection (e)(1)(D),
21 the amount of the award shall be deposited in the general fund of the
22 school district in which such school is located. Moneys deposited in the
23 general fund of a school district in accordance with this subsection shall be
24 considered reimbursements for the purpose of the school district finance
25 and quality performance act.

26 (h) The state department of education shall provide the committee,
27 upon request, with assistance regarding the application, the nomination
28 process, award ceremonies and any other needs of the committee relating
29 to the oversight of the program.

30 (i) On and after July 1, 2015, except for the Kansas legislature award
31 for teaching excellence program, the state department of education shall
32 not administer the Kansas teacher of the year program or any substantially
33 similar successor teacher recognition and award program. Such
34 substantially similar teacher recognition and award programs do not
35 include educator awards established by the Milken family foundation.

36 (j) As used in this section:

37 (1) "Classroom instructor" means an instructor who is responsible for
38 a group of students and such responsibilities include, but are not limited to,
39 the following:

40 (A) The assessment of students including the assignment of grades on
41 a report card;

42 (B) the preparation of lesson plans;

43 (C) parent-teacher conferences;

1 (D) discipline; and

2 (E) day-to-day functioning of classes including duties such as
3 attendance, lunch count, lunch and recess duty.

4 (2) "Committee" means the Kansas legislature award for teaching
5 excellence selection committee.

6 (3) "Fund" means the Kansas legislature award for teaching
7 excellence fund.

8 (4) "Program" means the Kansas legislature award for teaching
9 excellence program.

10 (5) "School year" means the period from July 1 to June 30.

11 (6) "State board" means the state board of education.

12 (7) "Teacher" means any instructor who holds any type of teacher's
13 license issued by the state board; is employed as a full-time classroom
14 instructor in a public school; and has completed a minimum of five years
15 as a classroom instructor.

16 Sec. 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
17 publication in the statute book.