

1 for prekindergarten through twelfth grade, including minority
2 teachers, at all state public higher education institutions or
3 private higher education institutions accredited pursuant to Section
4 4103 of this title and incentivize employment as public teachers for
5 prekindergarten through twelfth grade in the state for at least five
6 (5) years, to be known as the ~~Oklahoma Future Teacher Scholarship~~
7 ~~and Employment Incentive~~ Inspired to Teach Program. Prospective
8 teachers planning to pursue an undergraduate teacher education
9 program at an accredited Oklahoma teacher preparation program shall
10 be considered if they graduated from ~~an Oklahoma~~ high school,
11 completed high-school level instruction at home, or completed
12 General Educational Development (GED) test requirements; meet the
13 higher education admission standards~~;~~; and declare a pre-education
14 major or major in an approved Oklahoma teacher preparation degree
15 program leading to a standard teaching certificate.

16 B. To the extent that funds are available, scholarships,
17 renewable for up to three (3) additional years for qualified
18 students meeting satisfactory academic progress standards in
19 completing a teacher preparation degree program leading to a
20 standard teaching certificate, shall be awarded to cover costs of
21 tuition, general enrollment fees, other fees, books, materials, and
22 services provided by the institution, including room and board, in
23 the following manner:

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1 1. One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) per academic year for up to
2 three (3) academic years for full-time students who have earned less
3 than ninety (90) credit hours; and

4 2. Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00) for the final
5 academic year for full-time students who have earned ninety (90) or
6 more credit hours.

7 The maximum amount of scholarship funds awarded as provided in this
8 subsection to any qualified student shall not exceed Five Thousand
9 Five Hundred Dollars (\$5,500.00).

10 C. As used in this section, "full-time student" means:

11 1. An undergraduate student enrolled in twelve (12) or more
12 semester credits toward teacher education degree requirements;

13 2. An undergraduate student who is a teacher education major
14 who is enrolled in or has completed an internship or student
15 teaching credit hours in order to complete the degree program prior
16 to certification and who has been approved to take less than twelve
17 (12) credit hours; or

18 3. An undergraduate student who is a teacher education major
19 with an approved reasonable accommodation from Student Accessibility
20 Services at the institution due to a documented disability and who
21 has been approved to take less than twelve (12) credit hours.

22 B D. It is the intent of the Oklahoma Legislature that the
23 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education create a committee
24 composed of educators, teacher educators from the participating

1 institutions, and representatives of the public schools and the
2 State Department of Education to provide recommendations to the
3 State Regents to improve effectiveness of the ~~program~~ Inspired to
4 Teach Program. The committee shall prepare and deliver a report on
5 the program to the Legislature on or before July 1 of each year.

6 C E. Each scholarship participant, prior to entry into the
7 ~~program~~ Inspired to Teach Program, shall have agreed to teach in an
8 Oklahoma public prekindergarten through twelfth grade school for a
9 minimum of five (5) consecutive years upon graduation and licensure
10 as a teacher. Any scholarship participant failing to maintain a 2.5
11 grade point average throughout matriculation, changing to an
12 ineligible area of study, failing to meet satisfactory academic
13 progress standards, withdrawing or otherwise leaving school, or
14 failing to meet requirements for licensure and certification to
15 teach as established by law shall be subject to disqualification
16 from the program.

17 D F. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education are
18 authorized to make employment incentive payments pursuant to the
19 provisions of this section to ~~program~~ Inspired to Teach Program
20 participants who are employed as traditionally certified teachers in
21 Oklahoma public prekindergarten through twelfth grade schools
22 following graduation. Incentive payments may be awarded following
23 each consecutive year of satisfactory service as documented by the
24 employing school district, up to five (5) years of service for

1 scholarship recipients as provided in subsection A of this section,
2 upon graduation from an accredited Oklahoma teacher preparation
3 degree program. The maximum amount of employment incentive payments
4 for any qualified participant shall be Four Thousand Dollars
5 (\$4,000.00) per year for up to five (5) years, not to exceed a total
6 of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00) per participant.

7 F G. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall
8 require the execution of appropriate contracts with eligible ~~program~~
9 Inspired to Teach Program participants. Participants failing to
10 comply with the requirements of this section or failing to provide
11 current contact information shall not be eligible for the employment
12 incentive payments provided for in this section. The Chancellor of
13 the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, with the approval
14 of the State Regents, may contract with any other appropriate
15 organization or unit of government for the administration of the
16 provisions of this section.

17 F H. If sufficient funds are not available for employment
18 incentive payments to qualified participants during any fiscal year,
19 the Chancellor may make reductions in the payments made to qualified
20 participants.

21 G I. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education may, at
22 the time an award is made on behalf of the ~~Oklahoma Future Teacher~~
23 ~~Scholarship and Employment Incentive~~ Inspired to Teach Program, set
24 aside funds for the full commitment made to an eligible student.

1 H J. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education may
2 utilize ~~Oklahoma Future Teacher Scholarship and Employment Incentive~~
3 Inspired to Teach Program designated funds for administration of the
4 program.

5 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2023.

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7 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS AND BUDGET, dated
8 03/02/2023 - DO PASS, As Amended and Coauthored.
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