

1 ENGROSSED SENATE
2 BILL NO. 329

By: Bullard and Bergstrom of
the Senate

3 and

4 Caldwell (Chad) of the
5 House

6
7 An Act relating to schools; making an appropriation;
8 specifying use of funds; creating the Rewarding
9 Excellent Educators Revolving Fund; specifying source
10 of funds; providing for expenditures; providing
11 purpose of fund; defining terms; directing the State
12 Department of Education to create the Rewarding
13 Excellent Educators Grant Program; providing purpose;
14 providing eligibility for grant funds; providing for
15 award of funds on certain basis; directing use of
16 grants; limiting the number of certain teachers and
17 support employees that may receive certain bonuses;
18 providing maximum bonus amount; providing for
19 codification; providing an effective date; and
20 declaring an emergency.

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22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

23 SECTION 1. There is hereby appropriated to the Rewarding
24 Excellent Educators Revolving Fund created in Section 2 of this act
from any monies not otherwise appropriated from the General Revenue
Fund of the State Treasury for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024,
the sum of Fifty Million Dollars (\$50,000,000.00).

SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 18-126 of Title 70, unless there
is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

1 There is hereby created in the State Treasury a revolving fund
2 for the State Board of Education to be designated the "Rewarding
3 Excellent Educators Revolving Fund". The fund shall be a continuing
4 fund, not subject to fiscal year limitations, and shall consist of
5 all monies received by the State Board of Education from state
6 appropriations. All monies accruing to the credit of the fund are
7 hereby appropriated and may be budgeted and expended by the State
8 Board of Education for the purpose of implementing the provisions of
9 Section 3 of this act. Expenditures from the fund shall be made
10 upon warrants issued by the State Treasurer against claims filed as
11 prescribed by law with the Director of the Office of Management and
12 Enterprise Services for approval and payment.

13 SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
14 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 18-126.1 of Title 70, unless
15 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

16 A. For the purposes of this act:

17 1. "Eligible teacher" means a certified person employed on a
18 full-time basis by a school district to serve as a teacher,
19 supervisor, counselor, librarian, or certified or registered nurse;
20 and

21 2. "Eligible support employee" means a full-time employee of a
22 school district as determined by the standard period of labor which
23 is customarily understood to constitute full-time employment for the
24 type of services performed by the employee who is employed a minimum

1 of one hundred seventy-two (172) days and who provides those
2 services, not performed by professional educators or certified
3 teachers, which are necessary for the efficient and satisfactory
4 functioning of a school district and shall not include adult
5 education instructors or adult coordinators employed by technology
6 center school districts.

7 B. The State Department of Education shall create the Rewarding
8 Excellent Educators Grant Program for the purpose of providing grant
9 funds to school districts to implement qualitative bonus pay plans
10 for eligible teachers and eligible support employees.

11 C. To receive grant funds, a school district board of education
12 shall approve and submit to the State Department of Education a
13 qualitative bonus pay plan to reward high-performing eligible
14 teachers and eligible support employees. The plan shall include,
15 but not be limited to, the following components:

- 16 1. Student growth, as defined by the school district board of
17 education;
- 18 2. Peer evaluations;
- 19 3. Administrator evaluations;
- 20 4. Mentorship participation; and
- 21 5. Participation in extra responsibilities or duties.

22 D. The State Department of Education shall award grant funds to
23 school districts from the Rewarding Excellent Educators Revolving
24 Fund created in Section 2 of this act on a first-come, first-served

1 basis until funds appropriated pursuant to Section 1 of this act are
2 exhausted.

3 E. Grants awarded pursuant to this section shall be used to
4 provide one-time bonuses to eligible teachers and eligible support
5 employees. No more than ten percent (10%) of a school district's
6 eligible teachers and eligible support employees may be provided
7 one-time bonuses for the school year. No bonus shall exceed Five
8 Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00).

9 SECTION 4. This act shall become effective July 1, 2023.

10 SECTION 5. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
11 of the public peace, health, or safety, an emergency is hereby
12 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
13 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

14 Passed the Senate the 23rd day of March, 2023.

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Presiding Officer of the Senate

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18 Passed the House of Representatives the ____ day of _____,
19 2023.

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Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives

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