

State of Arkansas  
91st General Assembly  
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As Engrossed: S3/16/17 H3/27/17

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 555

By: Senator A. Clark

## For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO TARGET AND ENHANCE INCENTIVE BONUSES FOR TEACHERS EMPLOYED IN HIGH-POVERTY SCHOOLS WHO OBTAIN NATIONAL BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL TEACHING STANDARDS CERTIFICATION; TO MODIFY THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA AND CODIFY THE AMOUNT OF INCENTIVE BONUSES FOR CURRENT RECIPIENTS; TO REPEAL UNFUNDED INCENTIVE BONUSES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

## Subtitle

TO MODIFY INCENTIVE BONUSES FOR NATIONAL BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL TEACHING STANDARDS CERTIFICATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. The introductory language of Arkansas Code § 6-17-413(a)(3)(A) and § 6-17-413(a)(3)(A)(i)-(iii), concerning National Board for Professional Teaching Standards certification funding, is amended to read as follows:

(3)(A) The department shall pay a ~~starting incentive bonus of two thousand dollars (\$2,000) upon receiving the certification of the national board and a yearly incentive bonus of two thousand dollars (\$2,000)~~ five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for every no more than ten (10) school year years or, in the case of a recertification obtained before January 1, 2018, for the life of the recertification for the life of the certificate of the national board to any classroom teacher, building-level principal, or building-level assistant principal who:



- (i) Is selected by the State Board of Education to participate in the program of the national board;
- (ii) Successfully completes the certification process of the national board;
- (iii) Receives Has begun the certification process or has received certification or recertification of the national board before January 1, 2018; and

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-17-413(a)(3)(B) and (C), concerning National Board for Professional Teaching Standards certification funding, is amended to read as follows:

(B)(i) A teacher certified by the national board who moves into the state on or before January 1, 2017 and is employed full time as a classroom teacher, building-level principal, or building-level assistant principal in an Arkansas public school district shall be eligible for the yearly incentive bonus of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for every school year the person is employed full time as a classroom teacher, building-level principal, or building-level assistant principal in a local public school district ~~for the life of the certificate of the national board~~ no more than ten (10) school years.

(ii) A teacher who holds national board certification on or after August 1, 2009, who moves into the state on or before January 1, 2017, shall be eligible for the yearly incentive bonus of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for every school year the teacher is employed full time ~~for the life of the certificate of the national board~~ no more than ten (10) school years if, after working for three (3) years with national board certification as a classroom teacher, building-level principal, or building-level assistant principal in a public school district in this state, the teacher is employed as a teacher in an accredited teacher preparation program at a state-supported institution of higher education if funds are available after payments are made to those eligible under subdivisions (a)(3)(A)(iv)(a) and (a)(3)(B)(i) of this section.

(C) ~~The starting incentive bonus and the yearly incentive set forth in subdivisions (a)(3)(A) and (B) of this section shall increase yearly as follows:~~

~~(i) The starting incentive bonus and the yearly~~

~~incentive for 2003 shall be three thousand dollars (\$3,000);~~

~~(ii) The starting incentive bonus and the yearly incentive for 2004 shall be four thousand dollars (\$4,000); and~~

~~(iii) The starting incentive bonus and the yearly incentive for 2005 and each year thereafter shall be five thousand dollars (\$5,000).~~

*SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-17-413, concerning bonus funding for educators with a National Board for Professional Teaching Standards certification, is amended to add additional subdivisions to read as follows:*

(e)(1) The department shall pay a yearly incentive bonus to a person who:

(A) On or after January 1, 2018, began the certification process and received national board certification; and

(B) At the time of receiving the bonus is employed full-time in a public school, including an open-enrollment public charter school, as a:

(i) Classroom teacher;

(ii) Instructional facilitator; or

(iii) Instructional leader.

(2) A yearly incentive bonus under this subsection shall be:

(A) Two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) for a person who at the time of receiving the bonus is employed full-time in a public school, including an open-enrollment public charter school, that is not a high-poverty school or a high-poverty charter school;

(B) Five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for a person who at the time of receiving the bonus is employed full-time in a high-poverty school that is not in a high-poverty district; or

(C) Ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) for a person who at the time of receiving the bonus is employed full-time in a:

(i) High-poverty school in a high-poverty district;

or

(ii) High-poverty charter school.

(3) A yearly incentive bonus under this subsection shall be limited as follows:

(A) A person shall not receive a two thousand five hundred

dollar (\$2,500) bonus under subdivision (e)(2)(A) of this section in more than five (5) school years;

(B) A person shall not receive a five thousand dollar (\$5,000) bonus under subdivision (e)(2)(B) of this section in more than five (5) school years;

(C) A person shall not receive a ten thousand dollar (\$10,000) bonus under subdivision (e)(2)(C) of this section in more than ten (10) school years;

(D) A person shall not receive any yearly incentive bonus under this subsection in more than ten (10) school years;

(E) A person shall not receive in the same school year more than one (1) yearly incentive bonus under subdivision (e)(2) of this section; and

(F)(i) A person shall not receive in the same school year both a bonus under this subsection and a bonus under subsection (a) of this section.

(ii) A person who, as of December 1, 2017, meets the qualifications for a yearly incentive bonus under both this subsection and subsection (a) of this section may make an irrevocable election to receive future yearly incentive bonuses under this subsection by filing a written election with the department no later than July 1, 2019.

(f) As used in this section:

(1) "High-poverty charter school" means an Arkansas open-enrollment public charter school in which seventy percent (70%) or greater of the previous school year's enrolled students are national school lunch students as defined in § 6-20-2303;

(2) "High-poverty district" means an Arkansas public school district in which seventy percent (70%) or greater of the previous school year's enrolled students are national school lunch students as defined in § 6-20-2303;

(3) "High-poverty school" means an Arkansas public school in which seventy percent (70%) or greater of the previous school year's enrolled students are national school lunch students as defined in § 6-20-2303; and

(4)(A) "Instructional leader" means a building-level administrator who is responsible for evaluating teachers or instructional staff.

(B) “Instructional leader” includes without limitation a building-level administrator who is an evaluator as defined in § 6-17-2803.

*/s/A. Clark*

**APPROVED: 04/05/2017**