

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

State of Arkansas  
95th General Assembly  
Regular Session, 2025

As Engrossed: H1/16/25  
**A Bill**

HOUSE BILL 1023

Representatives A. Collins, D. Garner, Springer, Gonzales Worthen

### For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE STATE TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAM;  
TO AMEND THE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR LOAN  
FORGIVENESS UNDER THE STATE TEACHER EDUCATION  
PROGRAM; TO AMEND THE LOAN REPAYMENT AMOUNTS UNDER  
THE STATE TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAM; AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES.

### Subtitle

TO AMEND THE STATE TEACHER EDUCATION  
PROGRAM; AND TO AMEND THE ELIGIBILITY  
REQUIREMENTS FOR LOAN FORGIVENESS AND  
THE LOAN REPAYMENT AMOUNTS UNDER THE  
STATE TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAM.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-81-1604(b), concerning the standards for loan repayments under the State Teacher Education Program, is amended to read as follows:

(b) The division shall adopt standards for awarding the loan repayments to a public school teacher with an Arkansas teacher's license an applicant who is eligible to participate in the program under § 6-81-1605 ~~teaching in a~~

- ~~(1) Subject area with a teacher shortage; or~~
- ~~(2) Geographic area with teacher shortage.~~

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-81-1605 is amended to read as follows:



6-81-1605. Eligibility.

To be eligible for the State Teacher Education Program, an applicant shall:

(1) Teach full-time at:

(A) At a public school district in a subject area or geographic area with a teacher shortage, as identified by the Division of Higher Education in consultation with the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education; or

(B) In a public early childhood education program that serves children whose ages may range from birth through prekindergarten;

(2) ~~Hold~~ Either:

(A) Hold a valid Arkansas teacher's license; or

(B) Hold a birth through prekindergarten teaching credential from the Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education of the Department of Human Services; and

(3)(A) Meet additional continuing eligibility criteria established by the Division of Higher Education.

(B) An individual who has earned a teaching license upon the successful completion of an alternative educator preparation program is an eligible student under this section.

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-81-1606(a), concerning loan repayments under the State Teacher Education Program, is amended to read as follows:

(a)(1) The State Teacher Education Program shall be used to provide a loan repayment for federal student loans in the amount of ~~six thousand dollars (\$6,000)~~ ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) per year for a maximum of ~~three (3)~~ five (5) years for a ~~licensed teacher who graduated from a teacher education program after April 2004 and teaches in a public school in this state or successfully completed an alternative educator preparation program after April 2004 and teaches in a public school in the State Teacher Education Program;~~

~~(A) In a subject area designated by the Division of Higher Education in consultation with the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education as having a critical shortage of teachers; and~~

~~(B) Located in a geographical area of the state designated by the Division of Higher Education in consultation with the Division of~~

~~Elementary and Secondary Education as having a critical shortage of teachers~~  
an individual who is eligible to participate in the program under § 6-81-  
1605.

(2) A licensed teacher who is given intensive support status under the Teacher Excellence and Support System, § 6-17-2801 et seq., shall be ineligible for receipt of funds under the ~~State Teacher Education Program~~ program for the school year.

*/s/A. Collins*