

SENATE BILL No. 219

By Committee on Education

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AN ACT concerning school districts; authorizing adoption by boards of education of grow your own teachers programs; providing state aid to school districts which adopt such plans.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:

Section 1. The board of education of every school district may develop and maintain a grow your own teachers program under which classified school district employees who are interested in pursuing a career in teaching are provided with financial support in the form of forgivable loans for enrollment at an accredited teacher education institution in a course of instruction leading to certification as a teacher. Classified employees of a school district who participate in a grow your own teachers program also may be provided with a comprehensive support system including, but not limited to, retreats, seminars, workshops on goal setting, study skills, test-taking, communication skills, and college survival techniques. In addition, participants may be provided with work experiences, mentor support and assistance with job placement upon successful completion of all requirements for teacher certification.

Sec. 2. (a) To be eligible for participation in a grow your own teachers program maintained by a school district, an applicant must:

- (1) Be an employee of the school district;
- (2) demonstrate acceptable scores on the ACT or SAT or both;
- (3) be eligible for admission to or enrolled at an accredited teacher education institution;
- (4) demonstrate good verbal and written communication skills;
- (5) sign an annual attestation of eligibility to meet state of Kansas requirements for teacher certification;
- (6) be consecutively enrolled in at least 12 credit hours per semester in an undergraduate program leading to teacher certification at an accredited teacher education institution;
- (7) maintain a grade point average of 2.7 or better on a 4.0 scale;
- (8) actively participate in all grow your own teachers program activities;
- (9) successfully pass the PPST in the initial year in the program;
- (10) successfully pass the Principles of Learning & Teaching exam

1 (PLT);

2 (11) sign an annual statement of commitment and intent to teach full-
3 time in the school district beginning with the first full semester imme-
4 diately following graduation, or to repay the entire amount of the loan
5 received from the grow your own teachers program upon failure to com-
6 plete the requirements for a degree in education, to receive teacher cer-
7 tification, or to work as a teacher for the school district. If a participant
8 fulfills a portion of the teaching commitment, but not all of the commit-
9 ment, the participant will be required to repay a pro-rated amount of the
10 grow your own teachers loan rather than the full amount.

11 (b) Failure to meet any of the obligations specified in subsection (a)
12 may be cause for participants to be removed from the program, at which
13 time the total amount of the grow your own teachers program funds
14 loaned to the participant must be repaid.

15 Sec. 3. (a) Each board of education which develops and maintains a
16 grow your own teachers program may file an application with the state
17 board of education for state aid and shall certify to the state board the
18 amount of actual expenses incurred by the school district for maintenance
19 of the program. The application and certification shall be on a form pre-
20 scribed and furnished by the state board, shall contain such information
21 as the state board shall require and shall be filed at the time specified by
22 the state board. Approval by the state board of the application is prereq-
23 uisite to payment of state aid under this section to any board.

24 (b) In each school year, each school district, in which there is main-
25 tained a grow your own teachers program, is entitled to receive from
26 appropriations therefor an amount which is equal to 50% of the amount
27 certified to the state board in accordance with the provisions of subsection
28 (a). The state board shall certify to the director of accounts and reports
29 the amount due each school district. The director of accounts and reports
30 shall draw warrants on the state treasurer payable to the treasurer of each
31 school district entitled to payment under this section upon vouchers ap-
32 proved by the state board.

33 (c) Moneys received by a board of education under this section shall
34 be deposited in the general fund of the school district. Moneys deposited
35 in the general fund of the school district under this subsection shall be
36 considered reimbursements to the district for the purpose of the school
37 district finance and quality performance act and may be expended
38 whether the same have been budgeted or not.

39 Sec. 4. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
40 publication in the statute book.

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