

Second Regular Session  
Seventy-first General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

**PREAMENDED**

*This Unofficial Version Includes Committee  
Amendments Not Yet Adopted on Second Reading*

LLS NO. 18-0811.01 Jane Ritter x4342

**SENATE BILL 18-085**

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**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Todd**, Coram, Merrifield, Zenzinger

**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**McLachlan**,

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**Senate Committees**

Education  
Appropriations

**House Committees**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101     **CONCERNING PROVIDING FINANCIAL INCENTIVES FOR EDUCATORS TO**  
102       **WORK IN RURAL AREAS, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH,**  
103       **MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.**

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**Bill Summary**

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)*

Current law allows the department of higher education to provide up to 20 financial stipends annually, not to exceed \$6,000 each, to teachers in rural schools or school districts (rural schools) who are seeking certification as a national board certified teacher, seeking certification as a concurrent enrollment teacher, or furthering their

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
*Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing statute.*  
*Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

professional development plan through continuing education, and who commit to employment in a rural school for a minimum of 3 years. The bill increases the number of available stipends to 60 and expands it to include teachers completing an approved alternative licensure program leading to initial licensure and full-time employment in a rural school or board of cooperative services that serves rural schools and individuals completing the required course work leading to certification as a special services provider and employment in a rural school or a board of cooperative services that serves rural schools.

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1       *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2           **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 23-76-101 as  
3 follows:

4           **23-76-101. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly  
5 finds that:

6           (a) Teachers have a great impact on student achievement.  
7 Evidence shows that ~~teacher~~ THE quality OF TEACHERS can account for the  
8 majority of variances in student learning and test scores.

9           (b) The teaching and learning conditions under which teachers  
10 practice their profession, though often overlooked, are essential elements  
11 to student achievement and ~~teacher~~ retention. These conditions must be  
12 systematically studied and addressed for Colorado to develop a critical  
13 mass of teachers who are well prepared to teach and who will remain in  
14 hardest-to-staff schools long enough to make a significant difference for  
15 students and their families.

16           (c) Research ~~also~~ demonstrates that the negative effects of ~~teacher~~  
17 shortages **and** OF TEACHERS AND SPECIAL SERVICES PROVIDERS, AS WELL  
18 AS distribution challenges, have a disproportionate impact on geographic  
19 areas of the state that are classified as "rural". ~~leaving~~ AS A RESULT,  
20 children in ~~those~~ RURAL areas ARE more likely to be taught by fewer

1 teachers who must cover an increasingly larger number of subjects AND  
2 HAVE LIMITED ACCESS TO THE CRITICAL SUPPORT SERVICES OFFERED BY  
3 SPECIAL SERVICES PROVIDERS.

4 (d) APPROVED ALTERNATIVE TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAMS  
5 ARE CRITICAL FOR FILLING TEACHER SHORTAGES IN RURAL SCHOOLS AND  
6 SCHOOL DISTRICTS ACROSS COLORADO. RURAL SCHOOL LEADERS ARE  
7 ABLE TO PLACE QUALIFIED TEACHER CANDIDATES, INCLUDING MEMBERS  
8 OF THEIR OWN COMMUNITIES, IN CLASSROOMS THROUGH THESE  
9 ALTERNATIVE TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAMS. SUCH PROGRAMS  
10 PROVIDE THE NECESSARY SUPPORT AND COACHING TO AN INDIVIDUAL  
11 DURING HIS OR HER YEAR-LONG TRAINING AND ALLOW ALTERNATIVE  
12 TEACHER CANDIDATES TO EARN INITIAL TEACHER LICENSURE WHILE  
13 SERVING IN CLASSROOMS. BY HELPING TO FILL IMMEDIATE NEEDS IN  
14 HARD-TO-STAFF RURAL SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS, AND BY  
15 RECEIVING THE NECESSARY TRAINING, ALTERNATIVE TEACHER  
16 CANDIDATES ARE ABLE TO CREATE A POSITIVE, LONGITUDINAL IMPACT ON  
17 STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

18 (e) SINCE THE BEGINNING OF ALTERNATIVE TEACHER PREPARATION  
19 PATHWAYS IN COLORADO, THE NUMBER OF ALTERNATIVE TEACHER  
20 CANDIDATES HAS INCREASED STEADILY, WITH ONE OUT OF EVERY FOUR  
21 ALTERNATIVE TEACHER CANDIDATES NOW COMPLETING AN ALTERNATIVE  
22 TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAM

1 is a critical element of accountable education reform, accountable  
2 programs to meet state academic standards, and performance incentives  
3 for teachers AND SPECIAL SERVICES PROVIDERS and, therefore, may  
4 receive funding from the state education fund created in section 17 (4) of  
5 article IX of the state constitution.

6 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-76-102, **amend**  
7 the introductory portion; and **add** (5) as follows:

8 **23-76-102. Definitions.** As used in this ~~article~~ ARTICLE 76, unless  
9 the context otherwise requires:

10 (5) "SPECIAL SERVICES PROVIDER" MEANS ANY PERSON OTHER  
11 THAN A TEACHER, PRINCIPAL, OR ADMINISTRATOR WHO IS EMPLOYED BY  
12 ANY SCHOOL DISTRICT, CHARTER SCHOOL, INSTITUTE CHARTER SCHOOL,  
13 OR BOARD OF COOPERATIVE SERVICES TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL  
14 SERVICES TO STUDENTS IN DIRECT SUPPORT OF THE EDUCATION  
15 INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM.

16 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 23-76-106 as  
17 follows:

18 **23-76-106. National board certified teacher stipends -**  
19 **concurrent enrollment stipends - special service providers stipends.**

20 (1) The department of higher education shall annually provide up to  
21 ~~twenty~~ SIXTY financial stipends, not to exceed six thousand dollars each,  
22 to any:

23 (a) Teacher in a rural school or school district who is seeking  
24 certification as a national board certified teacher;

25 (b) TEACHER IN A RURAL SCHOOL OR SCHOOL DISTRICT WHO IS  
26 seeking certification as a concurrent enrollment teacher ~~or is a teacher~~  
27 ~~furthering his or her professional development plan through continuing~~

1 ~~education~~ AND WHO NEEDS ADDITIONAL COURSE WORK OR CREDENTIALS  
2 TO OBTAIN SUCH CERTIFICATION;

3 (c) TEACHER COMPLETING AN ALTERNATIVE LICENSURE PROGRAM  
4 APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PURSUANT TO ARTICLE  
5 60.5 OF TITLE 22 THAT LEADS TO INITIAL LICENSURE IN THE STATE OF  
6 COLORADO AND FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT AS A TEACHER IN A RURAL  
7 SCHOOL OR SCHOOL DISTRICT OR A BOARD OF COOPERATIVE SERVICES  
8 THAT SERVES RURAL SCHOOLS OR SCHOOL DISTRICTS; OR

9 (d) INDIVIDUAL SEEKING TO COMPLETE THE REQUIRED COURSE  
10 WORK LEADING TO CERTIFICATION AS A SPECIAL SERVICES PROVIDER AND  
11 EMPLOYMENT IN A RURAL SCHOOL OR SCHOOL DISTRICT OR A BOARD OF  
12 COOPERATIVE SERVICES THAT SERVES RURAL SCHOOLS OR SCHOOL  
13 DISTRICTS.

14 (2) The stipends may be used to offset application fees, evaluation  
15 costs, tuition costs, and any ADDITIONAL costs associated with ~~continuing~~  
16 ~~education that are~~ OBTAINING INITIAL LICENSURE OR in support of a  
17 teacher's OR SPECIAL SERVICES PROVIDER'S professional development  
18 plan; EXCEPT THAT THE STIPENDS MAY ONLY BE USED TO OFFSET COSTS  
19 ASSOCIATED WITH AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION OR AN  
20 ALTERNATIVE LICENSURE PROGRAM THAT IS APPROVED BY THE STATE  
21 BOARD OF EDUCATION.

22 (3) The financial stipends awarded should, to the extent  
23 practicable, include persons with disabilities and take into consideration  
24 the geographic, racial, and ethnic diversity of the state.

25 (4) A teacher OR A SPECIAL SERVICES PROVIDER who receives a  
26 stipend pursuant to this section must commit to ~~teach for a total~~ BECOME  
27 OR REMAIN EMPLOYED IN A RURAL SCHOOL OR SCHOOL DISTRICT OR A

1       BOARD OF COOPERATIVE SERVICES THAT SERVES RURAL SCHOOLS OR  
2       SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN THE STATE OF COLORADO FOR A MINIMUM of three  
3       years. ~~in his or her rural school or school district.~~

4           **SECTION 4. Appropriation.** For the 2018-19 state fiscal year,  
5       \$240,000 is appropriated to the department of higher education. This  
6       appropriation is from the general fund. To implement this act, the  
7       department may use may use this appropriation for rural teacher  
8       recruitment, retention, and professional development.

9           **SECTION 5. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act  
10      takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the  
11      ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August  
12      8, 2018, if adjournment sine die is on May 9, 2018); except that, if a  
13      referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the  
14      state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act  
15      within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect  
16      unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in  
17      November 2018 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the  
18      official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.