

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 25, 2001

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 31, 2001

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 25, 2001

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2001–02 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1499

Introduced by Assembly Member Negrete McLeod

February 23, 2001

An act to amend Section 44735 of the Education Code, relating to teachers.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1499, as amended, Negrete McLeod. Teachers: Teaching ~~as a~~ As A Priority Block Grant.

Existing law establishes the Teaching As A Priority Block Grant to be administered by the State Department of Education with the approval of the State Board of Education for the purpose of awarding block grants to school districts on a competitive basis to provide incentives to attract credentialed teachers to be employed and retained in low-performing schools. Block grant funds may be used at the discretion of a school district for teacher recruitment and retention incentives, with the target of reducing the number of teachers on emergency permits. Incentives may include signing bonuses, improved work conditions, teacher compensation, and housing subsidies.

This bill would authorize a school district receiving block grant funds to offer incentives to recruit and retain credentialed teachers interested in attaining cross-cultural, language, and academic development certification (CLAD) or bilingual, cross-cultural, language, and

academic development certification (BCLAD). The bill would authorize incentives to include stipends to cover the costs of examinations necessary to attain CLAD or BCLAD certification and coursework necessary for preparation programs offering CLAD and BCLAD emphasis ~~and covering the costs associated with hiring substitute teachers for teachers seeking time off or a regular sabbatical for course leading to CLAD or BCLAD certification.~~

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 44735 of the Education Code is
 2 amended to read:
 3 44735. The Teaching As A Priority Block Grant is hereby
 4 created to be administered by the State Department of Education
 5 with the approval of the State Board of Education. The State
 6 Department of Education shall award block grants to school
 7 districts on a competitive basis to provide incentives to attract
 8 credentialed teachers to be employed and retained in
 9 low-performing schools.

10 (a) (1) Block grant funds may be used at the discretion of a
 11 school district for teacher recruitment and retention incentives
 12 with the target of reducing the number of teachers on emergency
 13 permits. Incentives shall only be used to hire and retain
 14 credentialed teachers. Teacher recruitment and retention
 15 incentives may include, but are not limited to, all of the following:
 16 (A) Signing bonuses.
 17 (B) Improved work conditions.
 18 (C) Teacher compensation.
 19 (D) Housing subsidies.

20 (2) A school district receiving block grant funds pursuant to
 21 this section ~~is authorized to~~ may offer incentives to recruit and
 22 retain credentialed teachers interested in attaining certification
 23 pursuant to Section 44253.3 or 44253.4. Those incentives, may
 24 include, but are not limited to, all of the following:
 25 (A) Reimbursements to cover the costs of examinations
 26 necessary to attain certification pursuant to Sections 44253.3 and
 27 44253.4.



1 (B) Reimbursements to cover the costs of coursework
2 necessary for preparation programs offering emphasis in
3 certification pursuant to Sections 44253.3 and 44253.4.

4 ~~(C) Covering the costs associated with hiring substitute~~
5 ~~teachers for teachers seeking time off or a regular sabbatical for~~
6 ~~coursework leading to certification pursuant to Sections 44253.3~~
7 ~~and 44253.4.~~

8 (b) Funding shall be allocated to school districts on a per pupil
9 basis for pupils enrolled in schools ranked in the bottom half of the
10 academic performance index pursuant to Article 2 (commencing
11 with Section 52051) of Chapter 6.1. Within the bottom half of the
12 academic performance index, schools ranked in deciles 1, 2, and
13 3 shall receive 1¹/₂ times the funding per pupil of schools ranked
14 in deciles 4 and 5. No less than the amount of funding generated
15 by pupils in schools ranked in deciles 1, 2, and 3 shall be expended
16 in those schools.

17 (c) School districts shall apply to the State Department of
18 Education on behalf of their schools. The district application shall
19 contain information that is specific to each school. Applications
20 shall contain baseline information on the number of teachers with
21 waivers or emergency credentials at each school in accordance
22 with subdivision (a).

23 (d) School districts that participate in the program established
24 in this section shall be encouraged to participate in regional teacher
25 recruitment centers operated by consortia pursuant to Section
26 44751.

27 (e) Funds appropriated for the purposes of this chapter shall
28 supplement, and not supplant, existing efforts to recruit and retain
29 fully credentialed teachers in the school district.

30 (f) The State Board of Education shall submit an evaluation of
31 the program created by this chapter to the Legislature by January
32 1, 2004.

