

AMENDED IN SENATE JANUARY 7, 2002

**SENATE BILL**

**No. 319**

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**Introduced by Senator Alarcon**

February 20, 2001

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 319, as amended, Alarcon. Teaching as a Priority Block Grant.

Existing law establishes the Teaching As A Priority Block Grant administered by the State Department of Education under which block grants are awarded to school districts to provide incentives to attract credentialed teachers to be employed and retained in low-performing schools.

This bill would require a school district to ~~meet its API performance growth target under the Academic Performance Index for the prior year and agree to increase the percentage of credentialed teachers in all of its schools to 90% or more~~ *demonstrate a net decrease in the number of uncredentialed teachers at each school ranked in the bottom half of the academic performance index to be eligible to receive a block grant in successive years and would reduce the amount of a school's block grant by the amount of funds generated by pupils enrolled in a school where the school district fails to demonstrate a net decrease in the number of uncredentialed teachers.*

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 *SECTION 1. Section 44735 of the Education Code is*  
3 *amended to read:*  
4 44735. (a) The Teaching As A Priority Block Grant is hereby  
5 created to be administered by the State Department of Education  
6 with the approval of the State Board of Education. The State  
7 Department of Education shall award block grants to school  
8 districts on a competitive basis to provide incentives to attract  
9 credentialed teachers to be employed and retained in  
10 low-performing schools.  
11 (b) (1) *To be eligible to receive a full block grant during*  
12 *successive years, a school district shall demonstrate a net decrease*  
13 *in the number of uncredentialed teachers at each school ranked in*  
14 *the bottom half of the academic performance index pursuant to*  
15 *Article 2 (commencing with Section 52051) of Chapter 6.1.*  
16 (2) *If a school district fails to demonstrate a net decrease in the*  
17 *number of uncredentialed teachers at any of its schools ranked in*  
18 *the bottom half of the academic performance index, the amount of*  
19 *the school's block grant shall be reduced by the amount of funds*  
20 *generated by pupils enrolled in that school.*  
21 (3) *For purposes of this subdivision, 'uncredentialed teachers*  
22 *means teachers holding an emergency permit, teachers who are*  
23 *interns or preinterns, and teachers assigned outside of their*  
24 *credential authorization.*  
25 ~~(a)~~  
26 (c) (1) Block grant funds may be used at the discretion of a  
27 school district for teacher recruitment and retention incentives  
28 with the target of reducing the number of teachers on emergency  
29 permits. Incentives shall only be used to hire and retain  
30 credentialed teachers. Teacher recruitment and retention  
31 incentives may include, but are not limited to, all of the following:  
32 (A) Signing bonuses.  
33 (B) Improved work conditions.  
34 (C) Teacher compensation.  
35 (D) Housing subsidies.  
36 (2) A school district receiving block grant funds pursuant to  
37 this section may offer incentives to recruit and retain credentialed  
38 teachers interested in attaining certification pursuant to Section



1 44253.3 or 44253.4. Those incentives, may include, but are not  
2 limited to, both of the following:

3 (A) Reimbursements to cover the costs of examinations  
4 necessary to attain certification pursuant to Sections 44253.3 and  
5 44253.4.

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

9 ~~(b)~~

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

19 ~~(e)~~

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

26 ~~(d)~~

27 (f) School districts that participate in the program established  
28 in this section shall be encouraged to participate in regional teacher  
29 recruitment centers operated by consortia pursuant to Section  
30 44751.

31 ~~(e)~~

32 (g) Funds appropriated for the purposes of this chapter shall  
33 supplement, and not supplant, existing efforts to recruit and retain  
34 fully credentialed teachers in the school district.

35 ~~(f)~~

36 (h) The State Board of Education shall submit an evaluation of  
37 the program created by this chapter to the Legislature by January  
38 1, 2004.

39 ~~amended to read:~~



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

8 {  
 9 (b) ~~To be eligible to receive a block grant, a school district shall~~  
 10 ~~meet its API performance growth target established pursuant to~~  
 11 ~~Section 52052 for the prior year and shall agree to increase the~~  
 12 ~~percentage of credentialed teachers in all of its schools to 90~~  
 13 ~~percent or more.~~

14 (c) ~~Block grant funds may be used at the discretion of a school~~  
 15 ~~district for teacher recruitment and retention incentives with the~~  
 16 ~~target of reducing the number of teachers on emergency permits.~~  
 17 ~~Incentives shall only be used to hire and retain credentialed~~  
 18 ~~teachers. Teacher recruitment and retention incentives may~~  
 19 ~~include, but are not limited to, all of the following:~~

- 20 (1) ~~Signing bonuses.~~
- 21 (2) ~~Improved work conditions.~~
- 22 (3) ~~Teacher compensation.~~
- 23 (4) ~~Housing subsidies.~~

24 (d) ~~Funding shall be allocated to school districts on a per pupil~~  
 25 ~~basis for pupils enrolled in schools ranked in the bottom half of the~~  
 26 ~~Academic Performance Index pursuant to Article 2 (commencing~~  
 27 ~~with Section 52051) of Chapter 6.1. Within the bottom half of the~~  
 28 ~~Academic Performance Index, schools ranked in deciles 1, 2, and~~  
 29 ~~3 shall receive 1 1/2 times the funding per pupil of schools ranked~~  
 30 ~~in deciles 4 and 5. No less than the amount of funding generated~~  
 31 ~~by pupils in schools ranked in deciles 1, 2, and 3 shall be expended~~  
 32 ~~in those schools.~~

33 (e) ~~School districts shall apply to the Department of Education~~  
 34 ~~on behalf of their schools. The district application shall contain~~  
 35 ~~information that is specific to each school. Applications shall~~  
 36 ~~contain baseline information on the number of teachers with~~  
 37 ~~waivers or emergency credentials at each school in accordance~~  
 38 ~~with subdivision (a).~~



1 ~~(f) School districts that participate in the program established~~  
2 ~~in this section shall be encouraged to participate in consortia~~  
3 ~~operated regional recruitment centers pursuant to Section 44751.~~

4 ~~(g) Funds appropriated for the purposes of this chapter shall~~  
5 ~~supplement, and not supplant, existing efforts to recruit and retain~~  
6 ~~fully credentialed teachers in the school district.~~

7 ~~(h) The State Board of Education shall submit an evaluation of~~  
8 ~~the program created by this chapter to the Legislature by January~~  
9 ~~1, 2004.~~

