

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 28, 2014

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 2, 2014

SENATE BILL

No. 1264

Introduced by Senator Pavley

February 21, 2014

An act to add Article 7.7 (commencing with Section 69630) to Chapter 2 of Part 42 of Division 5 of Title 3 of the Education Code, relating to student financial aid.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1264, as amended, Pavley. Student financial aid: Educator Excellence Program loan assumption agreements.

Existing law establishes the Assumption Program of Loans for Education, administered by the Student Aid Commission, under which any person enrolled in a participating institution of postsecondary education, or any person who agrees to participate in a teacher trainee or teacher internship program, is eligible to enter into an agreement for loan assumption, to be redeemed pursuant to a prescribed procedure upon becoming employed as a teacher if he or she satisfies certain conditions.

Existing law requires the applicant to agree, among other things, to teach full time for at least 4 consecutive academic years or on a part-time basis the equivalent of 4 consecutive academic years at an eligible school. Existing law defines "eligible school" to mean, among other things, a school that is ranked in the lowest 2 deciles on the Academic Performance Index, a measure of the performance of schools and school districts.

This bill would establish the Educator Excellence Program under the administration of the Student Aid Commission. The bill would ~~authorize~~

require the commission, in coordination with the Superintendent, to develop procedures for the evaluation and selection of qualified applicants for participation in the program. The bill would specify eligibility criteria that participants in the program would be required to meet.

The bill would authorize the issuance, under that program, of up to 6,500 agreements for the assumption of student loans in a school year, of which up to 400 would be for credentialed teachers as specified, up to a total loan assumption of \$11,000 after 4 years of qualifying service in a school district that has qualified for a local control funding formula concentration grant, teaching in a subject area that has been designated by the Superintendent of Public Instruction as a current or projected shortage area. The bill would establish procedures for persons to apply for these loan assumption agreements and criteria for the determination of eligibility to enter into these agreements express the intent of the Legislature that this program be fully funded commencing with the Budget Act of 2015.

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. Article 7.7 (commencing with Section 69630) is
2 added to Chapter 2 of Part 42 of Division 5 of Title 3 of the
3 Education Code, to read:

4
5 Article 7.7. Educator Excellence Program Loan Assumption
6 Agreements
7

8 69630. (a) The Legislature finds and declares all of the
9 following:

10 (1) Entry into the state's teacher preparation programs has been
11 declining rapidly, even though student enrollments are on the rise
12 and projected to increase further over the next decade.

13 (2) The rising costs of higher education, coupled with a shift in
14 available financial aid from scholarships and grants to loans, make
15 the availability of financial aid and loan repayment assistance
16 options an important consideration in a student's decision to pursue
17 a postsecondary education.

1 (3) Despite the layoffs that appear to create a surplus of teachers,
2 teacher shortages continue to exist. Current shortages are in fields
3 such as special education, mathematics, physical ~~science~~ *science*,
4 and bilingual education/English language development, as well as
5 in many high-poverty schools. Through economic conditions,
6 student preferences, and changes in expectations in the teaching
7 profession, teacher shortage areas change over time.

8 (4) Huge educational and financial costs of more than ~~\$7 billion~~
9 *seven billion dollars (\$7,000,000,000)* per year nationally are
10 associated with replacing teachers and leaders who leave schools
11 prematurely.

12 (5) There is a crisis in the preparation of special education
13 teachers, who comprise the majority of underprepared teachers.
14 The most important factor in serving special education students
15 well is the knowledge and skills of their teachers. Without
16 sufficient training and certification in the field of special education,
17 costs increase as other services are added to compensate for
18 inadequate instruction.

19 (6) Through the Educator Excellence Program (EEP), the state
20 could better meet its educational needs by providing the
21 opportunity for financial assistance to qualified educators who will
22 serve California's students in ~~shortage~~ *fields with teacher*
23 *shortages*, as determined. Particularly in the area of special
24 education, this investment will reap huge benefits in better-served
25 students who will have a much lower need for remediation and
26 other services, and a lower rate of grade retention.

27 (7) In an effort to decrease the achievement gap and support all
28 students in becoming ready for college and career, California
29 should provide financial support to qualified persons seeking a
30 specialized and focused content area master's degree in education
31 or teaching and National Board Certification to increase the number
32 of highly qualified and competent teachers teaching in ~~California's~~
33 ~~lowest performing elementary and secondary schools.~~ *schools with*
34 *a concentration of high-needs students.*

35 (8) National Board for Professional Teaching Standards
36 certification is the most widely recognized certificate of educator
37 excellence.

38 ~~(b) The Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC), in~~
39 ~~consultation with the department, shall conduct a thorough study~~
40 ~~at least every three years, as determined by the Superintendent, to~~

1 determine priority areas for EEP loan assumption agreements. This
2 study will identify areas of greatest need and award EEP loan
3 assumption agreements based on specific criteria. This study will
4 include the following:

5 (1) A list of teaching fields that have the most critical shortages
6 of teachers, as defined. The Superintendent shall review this list
7 at least every three years and revise the list based on the most
8 current study conducted by the CTC, in accordance with
9 subdivision (b). The list of areas of teacher shortage furnished
10 pursuant to this subdivision shall include the state special schools
11 as a category separate from special education.

12 (2) A list of schools that serve a large population of pupils from
13 low-income families, as designated for purposes of the federal
14 Perkins loan program, or according to standards that the
15 Superintendent deems appropriate.

16 (3) A list of schools with a high percentage of teachers holding
17 emergency-type permits. The list shall be established according
18 to criteria determined by the Superintendent.

19 (4) A list of schools serving rural areas.

20 (5) A list of the lowest performing and hardest to staff schools.

21 (6) A list of high-priority schools.

22 (7) Other information as determined by the Superintendent.

23 (e) Annual EEP loan forgiveness awards will be determined
24 based on the most current study conducted by the CTC under these
25 provisions.

26 (d)

27 (b) It is the intent of the Legislature that the EEP be designed
28 to accomplish both of the following:

29 (1) Provide outstanding postsecondary students, particularly
30 economically disadvantaged students, with financial assistance to
31 encourage them to complete postsecondary education programs
32 leading to teaching credentials.

33 (2) Provide veteran teachers with financial assistance to
34 encourage them to pursue additional teaching or content area
35 authorizations and *credentials in designated*
36 *subject-matter areas in which there is a shortage of teachers*, a
37 specialized and focused content area master's degree in an
38 education or teaching subject matter area other than education
39 administration, or National Board-Certification. *for Professional*
40 *Teaching Standards certification*. EEP recipients shall agree to

1 teach in the lowest performing, hardest to staff schools or
2 designated subject-matter shortage areas, schools with a
3 concentration of high-needs students, based on the most current
4 study conducted by the CTC under these provisions.

5 (e) The Superintendent shall convene a working group at least
6 every three years to establish priorities, based on the most current
7 study completed by the CTC. EEP awards shall be authorized
8 consistent with the program goals, targeting high-need,
9 low-performing schools and districts in accordance with current
10 Assumption Program of Loans for Education program regulations
11 and governing federal law and regulations including, but not
12 necessarily limited to, paragraph (6) of subdivision (g) of Section
13 682.210 of Title 34 of the Code of Federal Regulations, relating
14 to the targeted deferment of student loan payments.

15 69630.5. For purposes of this article, “agreement” means an
16 agreement pursuant to Section 69631 or 69632 committing the
17 state to assume the loans of a teacher who satisfies the terms
18 specified in subdivision (h) of Section 69631 and elsewhere in this
19 article.

20 69631. (a) The Educator Excellence Program (EEP) is hereby
21 established under the administration of the Student Aid
22 Commission. *The commission shall administer this article, and*
23 *shall adopt rules and regulations for this purpose. The rules and*
24 *regulations shall include, but need not be limited to, provisions*
25 *regarding the period of time during which an agreement shall*
26 *remain valid, consistent with subdivisions (b) to (f), inclusive, the*
27 *reallocation of resources committed to program participants who*
28 *fail to satisfy the terms of an agreement, and the development of*
29 *projections for funding purposes. The commission, in coordination*
30 *with the Superintendent, shall develop procedures for the*
31 *evaluation and selection of qualified applicants for participation*
32 *in the EEP.*

33 (b) An EEP participant shall meet all of the following eligibility
34 criteria prior to selection for the program, and shall continue to
35 meet these criteria, as appropriate, during the payment periods:

36 (1) For participants enrolled in postsecondary education
37 programs leading to initial teaching credentials, the applicant has
38 completed at least 60 semester units, or the equivalent, and is
39 enrolled in an academic program leading to a baccalaureate degree
40 at an eligible institution, or has been admitted to a program of

1 professional preparation that has been approved by the Commission
2 on Teacher Credentialing. ~~Qualified candidates from another state~~
3 ~~who have received an equivalent credential, authorizing service~~
4 ~~for kindergarten or any of grades 1 to 12, inclusive, as determined~~
5 ~~by the Superintendent, may also be considered for participation in~~
6 ~~the EEP.~~

7 (2) For participants enrolled in postsecondary education
8 programs leading to a qualifying master's degree in education or
9 teaching, National Board ~~Certification~~, *for Professional Teaching*
10 *Standards certification*, or an additional authorization or credential,
11 applicants shall meet similar requirements consistent with
12 enrollment in these graduate degree and postcertification programs.

13 (3) For participants enrolled in postsecondary education
14 programs leading to initial or additional teaching credentials, the
15 applicant has agreed to teach full time for at least four consecutive
16 academic years, or on a part-time basis for the equivalent of four
17 full-time academic years, in a subject area that is designated as a
18 current or projected area of teacher shortage by the Superintendent
19 on the date the teacher is hired by a school district that has qualified
20 for a local control funding formula concentration grant pursuant
21 to Section ~~42238.02~~, ~~and according to qualifying criteria set forth~~
22 ~~by the Superintendent.~~ *42238.02 at a school site that has a pupil*
23 *population with a percentage of unduplicated pupils that is equal*
24 *to, or greater than, the school district's unduplicated pupil count*
25 *taken pursuant to Section 42238.02.*

26 (4) For participants enrolled in postsecondary education
27 programs leading to a qualifying master's degree in education or
28 teaching, or National Board ~~Certification~~, *for Professional*
29 *Teaching Standards certification*, the applicant shall have earned
30 a California ~~Professional Clear Teaching Credential~~ *professional*
31 *clear teaching credential* or equivalent credential from another
32 state, be a practicing educator, and agree to teach full time for at
33 least four consecutive academic years, or on a part-time basis for
34 the equivalent of four full-time academic years, in a school district
35 that has qualified for a local control funding formula concentration
36 grant pursuant to Section ~~42238.02~~, ~~and according to qualifying~~
37 ~~criteria set forth by the Superintendent.~~ *42238.02.*

38 (5) The terms of service for each participant in the EEP are to
39 be established as of the year the participant enters into the program.
40 Participants in the EEP must fully and completely satisfy the

1 requirements of the program within six years of the enrollment
2 date. ~~EEP participants who do not fulfill the terms of service and~~
3 ~~who do not satisfy their teaching requirements within six years of~~
4 ~~entering the program must fully repay the State of California all~~
5 ~~funds awarded them for loan assumptions resulting from their~~
6 ~~participation in the program.~~

7 *(6) The Superintendent is authorized to designate additional*
8 *qualifying criteria for participation in the program that he or she*
9 *deems pertinent to the purposes of this article.*

10 *(c) Notwithstanding paragraph (5) of subdivision (b), if a*
11 *program participant pursuing an initial credential or added*
12 *authorization becomes unable to complete one of the four*
13 *consecutive years of teaching service on a full-time basis or the*
14 *equivalent on a part-time basis due to serious illness, pregnancy,*
15 *or other natural causes, or is called to active military duty status,*
16 *the participant shall receive a deferral of the resumption of full*
17 *liability for the loan for a period not to exceed one calendar year;*
18 *unless approved by the commission for a longer period. The*
19 *commission shall make no further payments under the loan*
20 *assumption agreement until the applicable teaching requirements*
21 *specified in subdivision (b) are again satisfied.*

22 *(d) (1) Notwithstanding paragraph (5) of subdivision (b), a*
23 *program participant pursuing an initial credential or added*
24 *authorization shall receive a deferral of the resumption of full*
25 *liability for the loan for a period not to exceed one calendar year;*
26 *unless approved by the commission for a longer period, if the*
27 *participant becomes unable to complete one of the four consecutive*
28 *years of teaching service due to being laid off, reassigned, or other*
29 *reasons beyond the control of the participant, as determined by*
30 *the commission.*

31 *(2) The commission shall make no further payments under the*
32 *loan assumption agreement until the applicable teaching*
33 *requirements specified in subdivision (b) are again satisfied.*

34 *(e) If a program participant pursuing an initial credential or*
35 *added authorization fails to redeem an agreement for student loan*
36 *assumption within 10 years of the agreement's issuance, the*
37 *participant shall retain full liability for all of his or her remaining*
38 *student loan obligations.*

39 *(f) (1) If a program participant who is enrolled in a*
40 *postsecondary education program leading to a qualifying master's*

1 degree in education or teaching, or National Board for
2 Professional Teaching Standards certification, fails to redeem an
3 agreement for student loan assumption within six years of the
4 agreement's issuance, the participant shall fully repay the state
5 all funds awarded to the participant for loan assumptions resulting
6 from his or her participation in the program.

7 (2) (A) Except as provided in subparagraphs (B) and (C), if a
8 person participating in the program fails to maintain at least
9 one-half time enrollment, as required by this article, under the
10 terms of the agreement pursuant to subdivision (b), the loan
11 assumption agreement shall be invalidated and the participant
12 shall retain full liability for all of his or her student loan
13 obligations. This subparagraph shall not apply if the participant
14 is in his or her final semester or quarter in school and has no
15 additional coursework required to obtain his or her teaching
16 credential.

17 (B) Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), if a program participant
18 is unable to maintain at least one-half time enrollment due to
19 serious illness, pregnancy, or other natural causes, or is called to
20 active military duty status, the term of the loan assumption
21 agreement shall be extended for a period not to exceed one
22 calendar year, unless approved by the commission for a longer
23 period.

24 (C) If a natural disaster prevents a program participant from
25 maintaining at least one-half time enrollment due to the
26 interruption of instruction at the eligible institution, the term of
27 the loan assumption agreement shall be extended for a period not
28 to exceed one calendar year, unless approved by the commission
29 for a longer period.

30 (g) For selection to the program, an applicant shall be judged
31 by his or her postsecondary institution, school district, or county
32 office of education to have outstanding ability or be deserving of
33 special consideration on the basis of criteria that may include, but
34 need not be limited to, any of the following:

35 (1) Grade point average.

36 (2) Test scores.

37 (3) Faculty evaluations.

38 (4) Interviews.

39 (5) Other recommendations.

1 (6) *The applicant has received, or is approved to receive, a loan*
2 *under one or more of the following designated loan programs:*

3 (A) *The Federal Family Education Loan Program (20 U.S.C.*
4 *Sec. 1071 et seq.).*

5 (B) *Any educational loan program approved by the Student Aid*
6 *Commission.*

7 (h) *An applicant shall agree to teach full time for at least four*
8 *consecutive academic years, or on a part-time basis for the*
9 *equivalent of four full-time academic years in a school district that*
10 *has qualified for a local control funding formula concentration*
11 *grant pursuant to Section 42238.02 and at a schoolsite that has a*
12 *pupil population with a percentage of unduplicated pupils that is*
13 *equal to, or greater than, the districts' unduplicated pupil count*
14 *taken pursuant to Section 42238.02, in accordance with any*
15 *additional qualifying criteria set forth by the Superintendent*
16 *pursuant to paragraph (6) of subdivision (b), after obtaining a*
17 *teaching credential in a public elementary or secondary school in*
18 *this state, in a subject area that is designated as a current or*
19 *projected area of teacher shortage by the Superintendent, or on*
20 *the date the teacher is hired at an eligible school.*

21 (i) *An agreement shall remain valid even if the subject area*
22 *under which an applicant becomes eligible to enter into an*
23 *agreement ceases to be a designated area of teacher shortage by*
24 *the time the applicant becomes a teacher; if the schoolsite at which*
25 *the applicant is teaching ceases to have a pupil population with*
26 *a percentage of unduplicated pupils that is equal to, or greater*
27 *than, the school district's unduplicated pupil count taken pursuant*
28 *to Section 42238.02, or if any additional qualifying criterion set*
29 *forth by the Superintendent pursuant to paragraph (6) of*
30 *subdivision (b) is later not satisfied due to causes not within the*
31 *participant's responsibility.*

32 (j) *For the purposes of calculating eligible years of teaching*
33 *for the redemption of an award, the inclusion by the Superintendent*
34 *of a school on a list prepared pursuant to this section shall apply*
35 *retroactively from the date the school first opened for that school*
36 *year.*

37 (k) *A person participating in the program pursuant to this*
38 *section shall not enter into more than one agreement pursuant to*
39 *this article.*

1 *(l) A person participating in the program pursuant to this section*
2 *shall not owe a refund on any state or federal educational grant*
3 *or have defaulted on any student loan.*

4 ~~69632. In the academic years in which the study is completed~~
5 ~~by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing, in consultation with~~
6 ~~the department, pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 69630, the~~
7 ~~Superintendent shall develop priority areas for EEP awards, on or~~
8 ~~before January 1 of that academic year, which shall be based on~~
9 ~~the study findings. The Student Aid Commission shall provide~~
10 ~~EEP loan forgiveness awards as determined by the Superintendent.~~

11 69632. *(a) A credentialed teacher teaching in a school district*
12 *that has qualified for a local control funding formula concentration*
13 *grant pursuant to Section 42238.02 and at a schoolsite that has a*
14 *pupil population with a percentage of unduplicated pupils that is*
15 *equal to, or greater than, the unduplicated pupil count of that*
16 *school district developed pursuant to Section 42238.02, and in*
17 *accordance with any additional qualifying criteria set forth by the*
18 *Superintendent pursuant to paragraph (6) of subdivision (b) of*
19 *Section 69631, and who possesses a clear multiple subject or single*
20 *subject teaching credential or level II education specialist*
21 *credential and who has not otherwise participated in the program*
22 *established by this article, is eligible to enter into an agreement*
23 *for loan assumption pursuant to this article, subject to applicable*
24 *provisions of Section 69631.*

25 *(b) The number of loan assumption agreements provided*
26 *pursuant to this section shall not exceed 400 per year.*

27 *(c) On or before January 1, 2016, the Student Aid Commission*
28 *shall develop and adopt regulations to implement this section.*

29 69633. *(a) The department, in consultation with the*
30 *Commission on Teacher Credentialing, shall conduct a thorough*
31 *study at least every three years, as determined by the*
32 *Superintendent, to be included with the report required in Section*
33 *44225.6, to determine priority areas for EEP loan assumption*
34 *agreements.*

35 *(b) The Superintendent shall convene a working group to*
36 *establish program priorities, based on the most current study*
37 *completed by the department. Program awards shall be authorized*
38 *consistent with the program goals, targeting high-need schools in*
39 *accordance with current Assumption Program of Loans for*
40 *Education program regulations and governing federal law and*

1 regulations including, but not necessarily limited to, paragraph
2 (6) of subdivision (g) of Section 682.210 of Title 34 of the Code
3 of Federal Regulations, relating to the targeted deferment of
4 student loan payments.

5 (c) The study conducted pursuant to this section shall identify
6 the areas of greatest need and award EEP loan assumption
7 agreements based on specific criteria. The study shall include all
8 of the following:

9 (1) A list of teaching fields that have the most critical shortages
10 of teachers. The Superintendent shall review this list at least every
11 three years, and shall revise the list based on the most current
12 study conducted by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing, in
13 accordance with subdivision (b). The list of areas of teacher
14 shortage furnished pursuant to this paragraph shall include the
15 state special schools as a category separate from special education.

16 (2) A list of schools that serve a large population of pupils from
17 low-income families, as designated for purposes of the federal
18 Perkins Loan Program, or according to standards that the
19 Superintendent deems appropriate.

20 (3) A list of schools with a high percentage of teachers holding
21 emergency-type permits. The list shall be established according
22 to criteria determined by the Superintendent.

23 (4) A list of schools serving rural areas.

24 (5) A list of the lowest performing and hardest to staff schools.

25 (6) A list of high-priority schools.

26 (7) Additional information useful to make determinations in
27 areas of educational need and direct new program awards toward
28 those areas of program focus.

29 (d) In the academic years in which the study is completed by
30 the department, in consultation with the Commission on Teacher
31 Credentialing, pursuant to subdivision (a), the Superintendent
32 shall develop priority areas for EEP awards, on or before January
33 1 of that academic year, which shall be based on the study findings.
34 The Student Aid Commission shall provide program loan
35 forgiveness awards, based on the most current study conducted
36 by the Superintendent pursuant to subdivision (c).

37 ~~69633.~~

38 69634. The Student Aid Commission shall commence loan
39 assumption payments, as specified in Section ~~69634~~, 69635, upon
40 verification that the applicant is qualified based on the following:

1 (a) The EEP participant has received a California preliminary
2 credential, or an equivalent credential from another state,
3 authorizing service for kindergarten or any of grades 1 to 12,
4 inclusive, in an area of teacher shortage as determined by the
5 Superintendent pursuant to Section ~~69631~~ 69633.

6 (b) The EEP participant has received a qualifying master's
7 degree in education or teaching, National Board ~~Certification~~, for
8 *Professional Teaching Standards certification*, or an additional
9 teaching credential in an area of teacher shortage as defined by
10 the Superintendent pursuant to Section 69631.

11 (c) The applicant has met the requirements of the agreement
12 and all other pertinent conditions of this chapter.

13 ~~69634.~~

14 69635. (a) The terms of a loan assumption granted under this
15 article shall be as follows, subject to the specific terms of each
16 agreement:

17 (1) After a program participant has completed one school year
18 of classroom instruction, verified pursuant to Section ~~69633~~, 69634,
19 the commission shall assume up to two thousand dollars (\$2,000)
20 of the participant's outstanding liability under one or more of the
21 designated educational loan programs.

22 (2) After a program participant has completed two consecutive
23 school years of instruction, the commission shall assume up to an
24 additional three thousand dollars (\$3,000) of the participant's
25 outstanding liability under one or more of the designated
26 educational loan programs, for a total loan assumption of up to
27 five thousand dollars (\$5,000).

28 (3) After a program participant has completed three consecutive
29 school years of teaching service, the commission shall assume up
30 to a maximum of an additional three thousand dollars (\$3,000) of
31 the participant's outstanding liability under one or more of the
32 designated educational loan programs, for a total loan assumption
33 of up to eight thousand dollars (\$8,000).

34 (4) After a program participant has completed four consecutive
35 school years of teaching service, the commission shall assume up
36 to a maximum of an additional three thousand dollars (\$3,000) of
37 the participant's outstanding liability under one or more of the
38 designated educational loan programs, for a total loan assumption
39 of up to eleven thousand dollars (\$11,000).

(b) For purposes of this section, “school year” means at least 175 school days or its equivalent.

(c) An applicant who teaches on less than a full-time basis may participate in the program, but shall not be eligible for loan repayment until that person teaches for the equivalent of a full-time academic year.

~~69635.~~

69636. (a) The Superintendent shall develop priority areas for EEP awards at least every three years, as determined by the Superintendent, based on the most current study conducted by the Commission on ~~Teaching~~ Teacher Credentialing to determine areas of critical need in the teaching profession. The State Department of Education shall solicit the advice of representatives from postsecondary education institutions, the Commission on Teacher Credentialing, school districts, and county offices of education regarding proposed rules and regulations.

(b) *On or before December 31 of each year, the Superintendent shall furnish the Student Aid Commission with all of the following:*

(1) *A list of teaching fields that have the most critical shortages of teachers. The Superintendent shall review this list annually, and shall revise the list as he or she deems necessary. The list of areas of teacher shortage furnished pursuant to this paragraph shall include the state special schools as a category separate from special education.*

(2) *A list of schools that serve a large population of pupils from low-income families, as designated for purposes of the Perkins Loan Program, or according to standards the Superintendent deems appropriate.*

(3) *A list of schools with a high percentage of teachers holding emergency-type permits. The list shall be established according to criteria determined by the Superintendent.*

(4) *A list of schools serving rural areas. The list shall be established according to standards deemed appropriate by the Superintendent.*

(5) *A list of schools that have a pupil population with a percentage of unduplicated pupils that is equal to, or greater than, the unduplicated pupil count of the applicable school district taken pursuant to Section 42238.02.*

(6) *A list of high priority schools.*

(7) *Other information on schools and populations, as identified in Sections 2574 and 52060, to make determinations in areas of educational need and direct new program awards at those areas of program focus.*

~~69636.~~

69637. (a) For the EEP, the Student Aid Commission shall report annually to the Governor and the Legislature regarding all of the following, on the basis of sex, age, and ethnicity:

(1) The total number of program participants.

(2) The number of agreements entered into with juniors, seniors, students enrolled in teacher training programs, and current teachers who enroll in qualifying master's degree in education or teaching or National Board—~~Certification~~ *for Professional Teaching Standards certification* programs.

(3) The number of participants who agree to teach in an area of teacher shortage.

(4) The number of participants who agree to teach in schools with a high ratio of pupils from low-income families and in schools that have been designated as the lowest performing or hardest to staff.

(5) The number of participants who agree to teach in schools serving rural areas.

(6) The number of participants who receive a loan assumption benefit, classified by payment year.

(7) The number of out-of-state teachers who enter into agreements.

(8) The number of participants who have participated in teacher internship programs, classified by school district or county office of education.

(9) The number of participants who agree to teach in schools with a high percentage of students with disabilities or language minority students.

(b) The Superintendent shall use the data reported pursuant to subdivision (a), and other information and factors, in meeting the requirements of Section ~~69635~~ 69636.

~~69637. For each school year, the Student Aid Commission shall enter into agreements for the assumption of up to 6,500 student loans for program participants eligible under this chapter.~~

~~69638. It is the intent of the Legislature that the Educator Excellence Program be fully funded commencing with the Budget~~

1 ~~Act of 2015. Notwithstanding any other law, in any fiscal year,~~
2 ~~the Student Aid Commission shall award no more than the number~~
3 ~~of loan assumption agreements that are authorized by the Governor~~
4 ~~and the Legislature in the annual Budget Act for that year for the~~
5 ~~assumption of loans pursuant to this article.~~

6 69638. (a) *The Student Aid Commission shall solicit the advice*
7 *of representatives from postsecondary education institutions, the*
8 *department, the Commission on Teacher Credentialing, school*
9 *districts, and county offices of education regarding proposed rules*
10 *and regulations.*

11 (b) (1) *The Student Aid Commission shall distribute program*
12 *information and student applications to participate in the loan*
13 *assumption program to each eligible institution and to each school*
14 *district or county office of education operating a district intern*
15 *program pursuant to Section 44381. Each eligible institution shall*
16 *receive at least one allocation, and the remainder shall be*
17 *distributed to eligible institutions proportionate to the number of*
18 *teaching candidates from each institution who completed the*
19 *coursework required for a teaching credential based on the most*
20 *recent data available from the Commission on Teacher*
21 *Credentialing.*

22 (2) *The Student Aid Commission shall reexamine its outreach*
23 *and marketing strategies to inform both potential undergraduates*
24 *and persons employed outside of academia about the availability*
25 *and benefits of the loan assumption program. To this end, the*
26 *commission shall enlist the advice and support of the California*
27 *Center for the Teaching Profession, the University of California,*
28 *the California State University, the Association of Independent*
29 *California Colleges and Universities, and private employers and*
30 *their associations throughout the state.*

31 (c) *Each eligible institution, school district, and county office*
32 *of education shall sign an institutional agreement with the Student*
33 *Aid Commission, certifying its intent to administer the loan*
34 *assumption program according to all applicable published rules,*
35 *regulations, and guidelines, and to make special efforts to notify*
36 *students regarding the availability of the program, particularly*
37 *economically disadvantaged students.*

38 (d) *To the extent feasible, each eligible institution shall*
39 *coordinate the loan assumption program with other programs*
40 *designed to recruit students to enter the teaching profession.*

1 69638.5. *For each school year, the Student Aid Commission*
2 *shall enter into agreements for the assumption of up to 6,500*
3 *student loans for program participants eligible under this article.*
4 69638.7. *It is the intent of the Legislature that the Educator*
5 *Excellence Program be fully funded commencing with the Budget*
6 *Act of 2015. Notwithstanding any other law, in any fiscal year,*
7 *the Student Aid Commission shall award no more than the number*
8 *of loan assumption agreements that are authorized by the Governor*
9 *and the Legislature in the annual Budget Act for that year for the*
10 *assumption of loans pursuant to this article.*