

Approved February 6, 1991  
Date

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

The meeting was called to order by Representative Rick Bowden at  
Chairperson

3:30 XXX a.m./p.m. on January 30, 1991 in room 519-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Rep. Larkin, Rep. Reardon, Rep. Lahti, Rep. White, Rep. Hensley  
All Excused

Committee staff present:

Avis Swartzman, Revisor of Statutes Office  
Ben Barrett, Legislative Research  
Donna Lutjohann, Secretary to the Committee

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Ted Ayres, Kansas Board of Regents

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bowden. Rep. Empson was asked to Chair the meeting and she opened hearings on HB 2014.

Chairman Empson called upon Ted Ayres, representing the Kansas Board of Regents, as a proponent of HB 2014. Mr. Ayres was in favor of the modifications that are proposed in HB 2014. A copy of his testimony is on file. (Attachment 1). Questions were answered at the end of the testimony. Rep. Empson then closed the hearings on HB 2014.

Chairman Bowden resumed the Chair and the minutes from January 28, 1991 were brought to the attention of the Committee. A Motion by Rep. Reinhardt was made to approve the minutes. It was seconded by Rep. Jones. The Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Bowden at 4:12 p.m. with the next meeting scheduled January 31, 1991 at 3:30 p.m. in Rm. 519-S.



The Testimony of

Ted D. Ayres  
General Counsel  
Kansas Board of Regents

before  
THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION  
1991 Legislative Session

in re  
House Bill 2014

3:30 p.m.  
January 30, 1991  
Room 519-S  
Kansas Statehouse

HOUSE EDUCATION  
COMMITTEE  
Attachment 1  
January 30, 1991

Chairperson Bowden and Members of the Committee:

My name is Ted D. Ayres and I am General Counsel to the Kansas Board of Regents. I am here this afternoon representing the Board of Regents. I speak in support of House Bill 2014.

As you know, the Teacher Scholarship Program is administered by the Kansas Board of Regents. Our office has done so since the statute became effective in July of 1990. On November 29, 1990, Clantha Carrigan McCurdy reviewed the program for the LEPC and a copy of her testimony is attached to my written statement.

The Board endorses and supports the revisions proposed by the Legislative Educational Planning Committee. I feel that the modifications which are proposed by H.B. 2014 will help us address some questions which have arisen during our administration of the statute and/or clarify legislative intent with regard to the program.

Thank you for your attention to my comments.



# KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS

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## KANSAS TEACHER SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM TESTIMONY BY

Clantha Carrigan McCurdy

Legislative Educational Planning Committee  
November 29, 1990

**Background:** The Kansas Teacher Scholarship Program was enacted by the 1990 Legislature for the purpose of providing scholarship assistance to students interested in pursuing teacher education as a career. The program is designed specifically to attract students into "hard-to-fill teaching disciplines" in Kansas at the elementary and secondary school level.

Legislation requires that "hard-to-fill teaching disciplines" be determined by the State Board of Education, which are reflective of critical shortage of teachers. Further, that the determination for individuals qualified for teacher scholarship awards be made by the Executive Director of the Kansas Board of Regents.

**Selection Criteria:** Applicants for the Kansas Teacher Scholarship Program must: (1) be a resident of Kansas; (2) demonstrate high academic achievement, determined by performance on the ACT Assessment, cumulative high school grade point average and/or college grade point average and class rank; (3) be enrolled or admitted to a full-time undergraduate program leading to teacher certification in a hard-to-fill teaching discipline; and (4) sign an agreement with the Board of Regents to teach in a "hard-to-fill" discipline as required.

**Scholarship and Teaching Obligation:** The Teacher Scholarship Program provides for a \$5,000 annual award that is renewable for the length of the course of instruction leading to the degree that will enable the student to teach a hard-to-fill discipline. Generally, recipients are required to teach for a period of one year, in the hard-to-fill teaching discipline, for each year of scholarship assistance received. Failure to fulfill the teaching obligation results in repayment of all scholarship monies received at the penalty interest rate of 15%.

### 1990-91 Award Statistics

For Fiscal Year 1991, \$253,500 was appropriated for the Kansas Teacher Scholarship Program. Fifty (50) students were selected from a pool of approximately 500 applicants to receive this award. The number of students selected in each "hard-to-fill" discipline was proportion based on the number of available scholarships and the total number of applications received for

each academic discipline. The distribution of scholarships for 1990-91 were as follows:

Math	21
Science	11
Special Ed	10
Foreign Language	6
Industrial Arts	1
Library Media	1

The enrollment of Teacher Scholarship recipients is as follows:

Baker University	3	
Bethany College	5	
Bethel College	4	
Friends University	2	
Southwestern College	1	
Allen County CJC	1	
Emporia State Univ		7
Ft. Hays State	2	
Kansas State Univ	9	
University of Kansas	5	
Wichita State Univ	7	
Pittsburg State Univ	4	

#### Issues of Concern

I have been asked to address two issues of concern regarding the Kansas Teacher Scholarship Program: (1) treatment of minority students, and (2) whether current legislation permits the continuation of awards to recipients who may be required to continue enrollment beyond the undergraduate degree to teach in a "hard-to-fill teaching discipline."

Legislation for the Kansas Teacher Scholarship Program stipulates that applicants selected to receive this award demonstrate high achievement on the ACT assessment. Given this requirement, the higher the ACT score, the better the chances are for selection. With the exception of Asians, minority student achievement on the ACT Assessment is less than the achievement level of white or Caucasian students. Overall, the average ACT scores for Kansas students is 23.2. Depending on the ethnic group, minority students average scores range between 16.5 - 20.0. However, minority students are competitive when you compare grade point averages and class rank.

ACT scores for students selected for the Kansas Teacher scholarship in all categories ranged from 27 - 33. The one exception exists in the discipline of library media, where test scores of eligible applicants ranged from 18-23.

Race or ethnic background was not collected on the teacher

scholarship application. However, experience with a similar program, the Paul Douglas Teacher Scholarship Program, would suggest that none of the applicants selected represents a minority group.

If it is the intent of the Legislature to include minority students in the selection of Kansas Teacher Scholarship recipients, this intent should be clarified in the legislation. Perhaps language found in the Nursing Scholarship Program would be sufficient for our staff to address in the rules and regulations. Briefly, this language stipulates that "to the extent practical and consistent with the provisions, consideration shall be given to minority applicants."

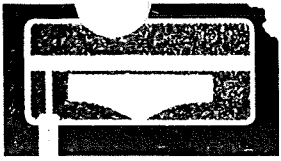
Unless we are able to stress these provisions, it is likely that minority students will not benefit from this program. Minority students achieving competitive scores on the ACT assessment usually do not consider education as a career path. These students usually pursue other areas such as engineering and math.

The second issue of concern relates to the continuation of the teacher scholarship beyond the undergraduate degree. The statute clearly states that the recipient be enrolled in an undergraduate program leading to teacher certification in a hard-to-fill discipline. However, it further stipulates that the scholarship shall be awarded for the length of the course of instruction leading to a degree that will enable to recipient to teach in a hard-to-fill teaching discipline.

According to our interpretation, teacher scholarships are restricted to students enrolled in undergraduate degree programs. Certain disciplines may require additional course work beyond the bachelor's degree for certification. It is our understanding that the recipient is not eligible to receive funds beyond the undergraduate degree, although the student is expected to complete all requirements for certification.

Students awarded the teacher scholarship for library media and special education have been told that certification to teach in these fields requires course work beyond the undergraduate degree. These recipients were also informed of the expectation to continue enrollment beyond the bachelor's degree to comply with the teaching obligation. These students were not promised additional scholarship monies for this course work.

It appears that it was the intent of the legislature to award scholarship funds for the duration of the program required to become certified in a hard-to-fill teaching discipline. However, it is the opinion of our staff that this is not permitted, unless legislation for awarding scholarships under the Kansas Teacher Scholarship Program is revised.



# KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS

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Student Assistance Section  
(913) 296-3517

## TEACHER SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM STATE OF KANSAS 1990-91

The Teacher Scholarship Program was enacted by the 1990 Kansas Legislature for the purpose of providing scholarship assistance to students interested in pursuing teacher education as a career. The program is specifically designed to attract students into "hard-to-fill teaching disciplines" at the elementary and secondary school level.

For 1990-91, math, science, foreign language, special education, and industrial arts have been determined to be hard-to-fill teaching disciplines by the State Board of Education at the secondary level. At the elementary level, special education and library media have been determined to be hard-to-fill disciplines.

The Scholarship: The Kansas Teacher Scholarship Program provides for a \$5,000 annually renewable award. Scholarships are awarded for the length of the course of instruction leading to a degree that will enable the recipient to teach a hard-to-fill discipline. The Teacher Scholarship is awarded on the basis of academic merit. Financial need is not a factor.

Qualifications: Applicants for the Teacher Scholarship Program must: (1) be a resident of the state of Kansas; (2) demonstrate high academic achievement, determined by performance on the ACT Assessment, cumulative high school and/or college grade point average and class rank; (3) be enrolled or admitted to a full-time undergraduate program leading to teacher certification in a hard-to-fill teaching discipline; and (4) sign an agreement with the Board of Regents to teach in a "hard-to-fill" discipline as required.

Teaching Obligation: Generally, recipients of the Teacher Scholarship are required to provide service as a teacher in the hard-to-fill discipline for a period of one year for each year of scholarship assistance received. Recipients must teach in Kansas to fulfill the teaching obligation. Failure to satisfy the teaching obligation will result in repayment of all scholarship monies received at the penalty interest rate of 15 percent.

Priority Application Date: Applications must be received by July 16, 1990 for priority consideration. Applications received after July 16, 1990 will be considered on a funds available basis. Students will be notified of their selection for the Teacher Scholarship prior to September 1, 1990.

For more information, write to: Kansas Teacher Scholarship Program  
Kansas Board of Regents  
Suite 609, Capitol Tower  
400 S.W. 8th Street  
Topeka, Kansas 66603-3911

(913) 296-3517