

STATE OF KANSAS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



REPRESENTATIVE JERRY LUNN
28TH DISTRICT

PROPONENT HB 2378

Date: 3/09/2015
To: Chairman Highland, Education Committee

Executive Summary: Providing a good education for our children is one of the core functions of state government and of vital importance to the workforce development needs and future economic success of our state. The Kansas Legislative Award for Teaching Excellence (KLATE) will replace the Kansas Teacher of The Year program and be designed to attract, reward, and retain those great teachers and encourage the pursuit of teaching excellence. The Kansas Legislature will create a new recognition program (KLATE) that will offer unrestricted prize money to 15 of the top performing Kansas teachers each year. Funding will be provided by the Kansas Legislature and through a private/public partnership.

Selection Process: Criteria will include effective instructional practices and student learning results and attributes that engage, motivate, and inspire students, colleagues, and the community. The Kansas department of education will administer the program and utilize processes already in place to identify Kansas Teacher of the Year, and Milken Educator Award candidates.

Selection Committee members will include:

- 3 Kansas Principal's Association representatives (1 elementary, 1 middle, 1 secondary)
- 1 Kansas School Superintendent's Association of Education representative
- 4 Members from business community appointed by House Speaker and Senate President
- 4 members from Kansas Legislature (2 House and 2 Senate)
- The person who was designated teacher of the year in the prior school year

Eligibility:

- Teacher must hold any type of teacher's license issued by the state board
- Teacher must be full-time classroom instructor in a public school
- Completed a minimum of five years as a classroom instructor

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- Of the 15 teachers selected, there shall be at least three teachers from each congressional district

Award Specifics:

- \$20,000 award for the most outstanding teacher
- Four \$15,000 awards for finalist teachers
- Ten \$10,000 awards for semifinalist teachers
- Fifteen \$10,000 awards for each school from which the top teachers have been selected

The 15 award winners will be selected from outstanding elementary, middle and secondary Kansas public school teachers throughout the state whose identities will remain confidential. All award winners and their respective schools will receive recognition and financial rewards presented by members of the legislature and local business community at surprise all-school assemblies.

Program Benefits: Kansas Award for Teaching Excellence will reward, and inspire our most effective teachers. It will make it easier to attract and retain professional teaching talent and reiterate the importance the legislature places on education. Other benefits include...

- Minimal program and logistical support is required; resources are already in place for the Kansas Teacher of the Year and Milken Educator Award programs
- Establishes a link between performance and reward
- Demonstrate teaching profession can be recognized and rewarded based on achievement similar to other professions
- Improve ability to recruit the best available teacher's
- Engage our business leaders in support of education
- Provide models of excellence for the profession

In addition to stated benefits implementing will KLATE will provide significant public relations benefit for our Kansas schools and aim to reverse the trend of teachers leaving the profession and fewer young people pursuing careers in education.