

HOUSE BILL No. 2081

By Committee on Education

1-19

1 AN ACT establishing the aspiring future teacher of the year scholarship
2 program; making and concerning appropriations for the fiscal years
3 ending June 30, 2024, June 30, 2025, June 30, 2026, June 30, 2027, and
4 June 30, 2028, for the department of education for such scholarships.

5
6 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

7 Section 1.

8 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

9 (a) There is appropriated for the above agency from the state general
10 fund for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, the following:

11 Aspiring future teacher of the year scholarship program\$160,000

12 Sec. 2.

13 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

14 (a) There is appropriated for the above agency from the state general
15 fund for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, the following:

16 Aspiring future teacher of the year scholarship program\$160,000

17 *Provided*, That any unencumbered balance in the aspiring future teacher of
18 the year scholarship program account in excess of \$100 as of June 30,
19 2024, is hereby reappropriated for fiscal year 2025.

20 Sec. 3.

21 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

22 (a) There is appropriated for the above agency from the state general
23 fund for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the following:

24 Aspiring future teacher of the year scholarship program\$160,000

25 *Provided*, That any unencumbered balance in the aspiring future teacher of
26 the year scholarship program account in excess of \$100 as of June 30,
27 2025, is hereby reappropriated for fiscal year 2026.

28 Sec. 4.

29 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

30 (a) There is appropriated for the above agency from the state general
31 fund for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

32 Aspiring future teacher of the year scholarship program\$160,000

33 *Provided*, That any unencumbered balance in the aspiring future teacher of
34 the year scholarship program account in excess of \$100 as of June 30,
35 2026, is hereby reappropriated for fiscal year 2027.

36 Sec. 5.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43

(a) There is appropriated for the above agency from the state general fund for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2028, the following:

Aspiring future teacher of the year scholarship program\$160,000
Provided, That any unencumbered balance in the aspiring future teacher of the year scholarship program account in excess of \$100 as of June 30, 2027, is hereby reappropriated for fiscal year 2028.

Sec. 6. Sections 6 through 10, and amendments thereto, shall be known and may be cited as the aspiring future teacher of the year scholarship program act.

Sec. 7. As used in the aspiring future teacher of the year scholarship program act:

(a) "Postsecondary educational institution" means the same as defined in K.S.A. 74-3201b, and amendments thereto.

(b) "Private independent postsecondary educational institution" means any not-for-profit institution of postsecondary education with its main campus or principal place of operation in Kansas that is operated independently and not controlled or administered by any state agency or subdivision of the state, maintains open enrollment and is accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting agency for higher education in the United States.

(c) "Qualified student" means a person who: (1) Is a resident of the state of Kansas; and (2) has been accepted for admission to or is enrolled in a course of instruction leading to licensure as a teacher in a postsecondary educational institution or private independent postsecondary educational institution.

Sec. 8. (a) There is hereby established the aspiring future teacher of the year scholarship program.

(b) (1) A scholarship may be awarded under the program to any qualified student and may be renewed for each such student who remains qualified for the scholarship. Determination of the students qualified for such scholarships shall be made by the commissioner of education. In making such determination, the commissioner shall consult with the immediately preceding school year's recipients of the Kansas teacher of the year award. To the extent practicable, the scholarships shall be awarded to qualified applicants who have similar backgrounds and attributes of such recipients.

(2) Within the limitations of appropriations therefor, eight scholarships shall be awarded annually, and the amount awarded to each applicant shall be \$2,500 each semester.

(3) If a student is not enrolled on a full-time basis, a student shall complete the course of study within the time period specified in the agreement and shall receive a proportionate amount of the scholarship

1 allowed under subsection (b)(2) based upon the number of hours enrolled
2 in an academic period and computed as a fraction of the total number of
3 credit hours required for full-time enrollment.

4 Sec. 9. (a) An applicant for designation as a qualified student and for
5 the award of a scholarship under the aspiring future teacher of the year
6 scholarship program shall provide to the commissioner of education, on
7 forms supplied by the commissioner, information required by the
8 commissioner.

9 (b) As a condition to awarding a scholarship under this act, the
10 commissioner and the applicant shall enter into an agreement, which shall
11 require the applicant to:

12 (1) Complete the required course of instruction as specified in the
13 agreement;

14 (2) obtain and maintain necessary licensure as specified in the
15 agreement;

16 (3) engage in teaching in Kansas and comply with such other terms
17 and conditions as may be specified by such agreement;

18 (4) commence teaching on a full-time basis in Kansas within six
19 months after licensure in an accredited public elementary or secondary
20 school in accordance with the agreement and continue teaching on a full-
21 time basis for a period of not less than two years; and

22 (5) maintain records and make reports to the commissioner as
23 required by the commissioner to document the satisfaction of the
24 obligations under this act and the agreement.

25 Sec. 10. The state board of education shall adopt rules and regulations
26 for the administration of the aspiring future teacher of the year scholarship
27 program and establish terms, conditions and obligations, which shall be
28 incorporated into the provisions of any agreement entered into between the
29 commissioner of education and an applicant for the award of a scholarship
30 under the program. The terms, conditions and obligations shall be
31 consistent with the provisions of law relating to the program.

32 Sec. 11. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
33 publication in the statute book.