

SENATE FILE NO. SF0046

Public school teacher incentive appropriations.

Sponsored by: Joint Education Interim Committee

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to public school teachers; expanding the
2 Wyoming teacher of the year program as specified;
3 continuing the Wyoming teacher policy institute; enhancing
4 funds available for teacher participation in national
5 certification; funding a teacher advancement program
6 subject to specified conditions; providing appropriations
7 to the department of education and imposing reporting
8 requirements; and providing for an effective date.

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10 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

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12 **Section 1. Wyoming Teacher of the Year Program.**

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14 (a) For school year 2005-2006, the department of
15 education shall expand the Wyoming teacher of the year
16 program as follows:

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1 (i) Establish a teacher of the year award for
2 each county within the state;

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4 (ii) Develop a selection process whereby each
5 school district principally located within each county
6 nominates a teacher to participate in the county-wide
7 competition, to be selected by a committee assembled by the
8 department which is comprised of school district teachers,
9 administrators and board members together with business
10 leaders, parents and members of the Wyoming legislature who
11 are residents of a school district located within the
12 county;

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14 (iii) Award each county teacher of the year
15 selected under paragraph (ii) of this subsection with an
16 incentive payment equal to one thousand dollars
17 (\$1,000.00);

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19 (iv) Provide for the selection of a Wyoming
20 teacher of the year from among all selected county teachers
21 of the year, to receive an award equal to five thousand
22 dollars (\$5,000.00).

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1 (b) Twenty-eight thousand dollars (\$28,000.00) is
2 appropriated from the general fund to the department of
3 education to implement subsection (a) of this section and
4 fund program expansion during school year 2005-2006.

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6 **Section 2. Wyoming Teacher Policy Institute.** Two
7 hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000.00) is appropriated from
8 the general fund to the department of education to fund the
9 Wyoming teacher policy institute during school year 2005-
10 2006.

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12 **Section 3. National Teacher Certification Program.**

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14 (a) For school year 2005-2006, one hundred eighty-two
15 thousand dollars (\$182,000.00) is appropriated from the
16 general fund to the department of education to supplement
17 amounts available under W.S. 21-22-106(a)(iii) to districts
18 for reimbursements to teachers for actual costs of national
19 certification fees as provided under W.S. 21-7-501. In
20 addition and notwithstanding limits imposed under W.S.
21 21-7-501(a), the department shall in consultation with the
22 Wyoming professional teaching standards board, expend the
23 funds appropriated under this subsection, together with any
24 funds received from private sources, to:

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2 (i) Increase recruitment of teacher applicants
3 for national certification;

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5 (ii) Establish a support system for teachers
6 while in the process of obtaining national certification;

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8 (iii) Provide awards and public recognition for
9 teachers receiving national certification.

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11 (b) Not later than July 1, 2006, the department of
12 education shall report expenditures of amounts appropriated
13 under this section to the joint education interim
14 committee, and recommend any necessary modification to the
15 national certification program established by W.S.
16 21-7-501.

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18 **Section 4. Teacher Advancement Program.**

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20 (a) Four hundred thousand dollars (\$400,000.00) is
21 appropriated from the general fund to the department of
22 education to initiate and pilot a teacher advancement
23 program providing incentives and support for teachers
24 during the 2005-2006 school year. The department shall

1 establish a qualification and selection process to
2 determine school program participation based upon
3 demonstrated ability to completely and effectively
4 implement the program and the level of teacher and
5 administrator interest. Funds appropriated under this
6 section shall not be expended by the department unless
7 supplemented by federal or other nonstate funds. Program
8 components shall provide incentives and support for:

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10 (i) Multiple career paths providing options to
11 teachers for career advancement with corresponding
12 increases in responsibility, compensation and leadership;

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14 (ii) Teacher compensation based upon classroom
15 performance and student progress;

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17 (iii) Performance evaluation and promotion based
18 upon knowledge and ability standards agreed to by teachers;

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20 (iv) Frequent, regularly scheduled collaborative
21 professional development opportunities for teachers;

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23 (v) Expanded teacher certification programs and
24 processes made available at alternative entry points.

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2 (b) On or before July 1, 2006, the department shall
3 report to the joint education interim committee on the
4 expenditure of amounts appropriated under this section and
5 shall provide recommendations to the committee on program
6 continuation.

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8 **Section 4.** This act is effective July 1, 2005.

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(END)