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NEWSPAPER ARTICLES: Yes

Matthew Fazelpoor, 'Murphy signs legislation expanding STEM education access', NJBIZ (online), 3 Nov 2022

end

P.L. 2022, CHAPTER 119, *approved November 2, 2022*
Senate, No. 2563 (*First Reprint*)

1 AN ACT concerning a grant program for teachers of certain subjects
2 and amending P.L.2019, c.256.

3
4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6
7 1. Section 1 of P.L.2019, c.256 (C.18A:6-137) is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 1. As used in sections 2 through 5 of P.L.2019, c.256
10 (C.18A:6-138 through C.18A:6-141):

11 "Eligible teacher" means an individual who is employed as a
12 teacher in a public school and who meets one of the following
13 criteria: (1) holds a valid and effective provisional or standard
14 instructional certificate issued by the State Board of Examiners with
15 an endorsement in a science field, mathematics, technology
16 education, or computer science education; (2) is currently enrolled
17 in a degree program or a coherent sequence of courses in science,
18 mathematics, technology, or computer science; **or** (3) will enroll
19 in a degree program or a coherent sequence of courses in science,
20 mathematics, technology, or computer science within two years of
21 the effective date of P.L.2019, c.256 (C.18A:6-137 et seq.) or
22 within two years of participating in the grant program established
23 pursuant to section 2 of P.L.2019, c.256 (C.18A:6-138)**or** (4)
24 is currently employed by a public school district to teach in a
25 science, technology, engineering, mathematics, or computer science
26 field ¹and will teach a subject and a grade level in the nonpublic
27 school for which the teacher holds appropriate certification,
28 including certification without a specific subject matter
29 endorsement where permitted by N.J.S.18A:26-1 et seq. ¹ .

30 ¹["Instructional hourly wage" means the amount equal to a
31 teacher's annual public school teacher salary including bonuses for
32 the prior school year, adjusted for inflation based on the consumer
33 price index for all urban consumers in the New York and
34 Philadelphia areas as reported by the United States Department of
35 Labor, divided by the product of 36 and the average number of
36 weekly hours taught by the teacher in public school in the prior
37 school year.]¹

38 "Nonpublic school" means an elementary or secondary school
39 within the State, other than a public school, offering education for
40 grades kindergarten through 12, or any combination of them,
41 wherein any child may legally fulfill compulsory school attendance

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined **thus** is new matter

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Assembly AED committee amendments adopted September 22, 2022.

1 requirements and which complies with the requirements of Title VI
2 of the "Civil Rights Act of 1964," Pub.L.88-352 (42 U.S.C. s.2000d
3 et seq.).

4 "Valid objection" means an explanation of why a school district
5 disapproves of an eligible teacher employed by the school district
6 from entering into a partnership with a participating nonpublic
7 school. A school district with a valid objection shall cite, with
8 sufficient supporting proof, as determined by the Commissioner of
9 Education, one or more of the following reasons:

10 a. the proposed teaching hours at the nonpublic school conflict
11 with the teacher's public school work responsibilities and no
12 resolution could be found after consulting with the teacher and
13 nonpublic school; or

14 b. approval of a proposed partnership between the nonpublic
15 school and teacher would otherwise substantially impact the quality
16 of student instruction in the school district.

17 (cf: P.L.2019, c.256, s.1)

18

19 2. Section 3 of P.L.2019, c.256 (C.18A:6-139) is amended to
20 read as follows:

21 3. a. A nonpublic school that wishes to participate in the grant
22 program established under section 2 of P.L.2019, c.256 (C.18A:6-
23 138) shall submit an application to the Commissioner of Education,
24 in a manner and on such forms as determined by the commissioner.
25 The commissioner shall establish the application deadlines for each
26 school year. In the event that the grant program is not operational
27 by September 1, 2019, the commissioner shall allow nonpublic
28 schools to submit applications during the course of the 2019-2020
29 school year for implementation of the program in that nonpublic
30 school during the 2019-2020 school year.

31 An application shall include the following:

32 (1) the names of the nonpublic school, school district, and
33 eligible teacher that will form a STEM partnership under the
34 program;

35 (2) acknowledgement from **【both】** the nonpublic school [and
36 school district] that the eligible teacher will teach at the nonpublic
37 school during hours **【following completion of the teacher's duties at**
38 **the public school, unless alternative scheduling is mutually agreed**
39 **upon by the school district and nonpublic school and is reflected in**
40 **a signed agreement】** during which the teacher has no conflicting
41 public school duties;

42 (3) the proposed schedule and grades to be taught by the eligible
43 teacher at the nonpublic school;

44 (4) the number of students, based on enrollment projections, that
45 will receive instruction from the eligible teacher under the proposed
46 schedule at the nonpublic school;

1 (5) a certification from the nonpublic school that the eligible
2 teacher shall provide only secular instruction at the nonpublic
3 school; and

4 (6) any other information specified by the commissioner.

5 ¹Upon receiving an application, the commissioner shall, within
6 10 business days, provide the school district in which the teacher is
7 employed the opportunity to object to the partnership identified in
8 the agreement. The school district shall submit to the commissioner
9 any valid objection within 10 business days. If a valid objection is
10 received, then the commissioner shall reject the application and,
11 within five business days, inform both the teacher and nonpublic
12 school that the application was rejected.】

13 Upon receiving a notification from a nonpublic school that a
14 teacher employed by the school district plans to participate in the
15 program, a school district may submit to the commissioner or
16 designee any valid objection within 10 business days. The
17 notification from a nonpublic school that a teacher employed by the
18 school district plans to participate in the program and the 10
19 business day period for receipt of a valid objection from the district
20 shall occur prior to application submission. If a valid objection is
21 received, then the commissioner shall reject the application and
22 inform both the teacher and nonpublic school that the application
23 was rejected.¹

24 b. The commissioner shall establish selection criteria for the
25 awarding of grants under the program, including consideration of
26 the application information submitted pursuant to subsection a. of
27 this section. To the maximum extent possible, the commissioner
28 shall select at least three nonpublic schools in each of the northern,
29 central, and southern regions of the State to participate in the
30 program, and nothing shall prohibit more than three nonpublic
31 schools in each region of the State from participating. During the
32 program's operation, the program may be expanded beyond the
33 nonpublic schools that were initially selected to participate, as
34 determined by the commissioner and subject to the availability of
35 funds.

36 c. The commissioner shall award grants under the program
37 based upon review of the applications and subject to the limit of
38 funds appropriated or otherwise made available for the program.

39 **【Approved grant】** Grant funds for approved applications shall be
40 allocated by the Department of Education to the school district of
41 each eligible teacher participating in the program. The school
42 district shall use the funds to provide compensation to a
43 participating eligible teacher pursuant to this subsection ¹including
44 applicable federal employment payroll taxes¹ . The commissioner
45 shall establish the amount of each grant awarded for an eligible
46 teacher, subject to the following:

1 (1) A participating teacher shall receive an amount equal to the
2 teacher's ~~annual salary as calculated on a per-hour basis~~
3 ~~instructional hourly wage~~ annual salary as calculated on a per-
4 hour basis¹ multiplied by the number of hours the teacher will teach
5 STEM classes at a nonpublic school under the program ¹multiplied
6 by 1.25¹ .

7 (2) In the event that sufficient funds are not appropriated to fully
8 fund the compensation to be provided to participating eligible
9 teachers pursuant to paragraph (1) of this subsection, the
10 commissioner shall apportion the amount appropriated among the
11 participating eligible teachers in proportion to the compensation
12 each participating eligible teacher would have received had the full
13 amount been appropriated.

14 (3) Payments received by a participating teacher under the grant
15 program shall not be considered "compensation" under
16 N.J.S.18A:66-2.

17 d. Funds appropriated for the grant program shall be used
18 exclusively for the hiring of eligible teachers to teach STEM classes
19 at a participating nonpublic school, and the eligible teacher shall
20 teach only the classes stipulated under the program.

21 e. If at any time a participating nonpublic school determines
22 that a participating eligible teacher is not in compliance with the
23 program or is violating the nonpublic school's code of conduct, the
24 nonpublic school may submit information to the commissioner
25 supporting its determination, and request that the teacher be
26 removed from participation in the program at the nonpublic school.
27 The information submitted shall demonstrate noncompliance with
28 the program, the nonpublic school's code of conduct, or the
29 nonpublic school's faculty handbook. After reviewing the
30 information, the commissioner may terminate the teacher's
31 participation in the program at that nonpublic school.

32 f. The grant program established pursuant to section 2 of
33 P.L.2019, c.256 (C.18A:6-138) shall not infringe upon the
34 collective bargaining agreement between the majority representative
35 of the collective negotiations unit in which the participating eligible
36 teacher is a member and the school district in which the teacher is
37 employed.

38 g. Any appropriation for the grant program made in a fiscal
39 year that is not expended in that fiscal year shall be available to be
40 used for the same purpose in the subsequent fiscal years.

41 (cf: P.L.2019, c.256, s.3)

42

43 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

44

45

46

47 _____
48 Makes certain changes to science, technology, engineering, and
mathematics educator grant program.

SENATE, No. 2563

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 12, 2022

Sponsored by:

Senator VIN GOPAL

District 11 (Monmouth)

Senator SHIRLEY K. TURNER

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator O'Scanlon

SYNOPSIS

Makes certain changes to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics educator grant program.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/16/2022)

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2 and amending P.L.2019, c.256.

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4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
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17 in a degree program or a coherent sequence of courses in science,
18 mathematics, technology, or computer science; **【or】** (3) will enroll
19 in a degree program or a coherent sequence of courses in science,
20 mathematics, technology, or computer science within two years of
21 the effective date of P.L.2019, c.256 (C.18A:6-137 et seq.) or
22 within two years of participating in the grant program established
23 pursuant to section 2 of P.L.2019, c.256 (C.18A:6-138)**【.】** ; or (4)
24 is currently employed by a public school district to teach in a
25 science, technology, engineering, mathematics, or computer science
26 field.

27 "Instructional hourly wage" means the amount equal to a
28 teacher's annual public school teacher salary including bonuses for
29 the prior school year, adjusted for inflation based on the consumer
30 price index for all urban consumers in the New York and
31 Philadelphia areas as reported by the United States Department of
32 Labor, divided by the product of 36 and the average number of
33 weekly hours taught by the teacher in public school in the prior
34 school year.

35 "Nonpublic school" means an elementary or secondary school
36 within the State, other than a public school, offering education for
37 grades kindergarten through 12, or any combination of them,
38 wherein any child may legally fulfill compulsory school attendance
39 requirements and which complies with the requirements of Title VI
40 of the "Civil Rights Act of 1964," Pub.L.88-352 (42 U.S.C. s.2000d
41 et seq.).

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43 disapproves of an eligible teacher employed by the school district
44 from entering into a partnership with a participating nonpublic
45 school. A school district with a valid objection shall cite, with

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1 sufficient supporting proof, as determined by the Commissioner of
2 Education, one or more of the following reasons:

3 a. the proposed teaching hours at the nonpublic school conflict
4 with the teacher's public school work responsibilities and no
5 resolution could be found after consulting with the teacher and
6 nonpublic school; or

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8 school and teacher would otherwise substantially impact the quality
9 of student instruction in the school district.

10 (cf: P.L.2019, c.256, s.1)

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19 school year. In the event that the grant program is not operational
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22 school year for implementation of the program in that nonpublic
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26 eligible teacher that will form a STEM partnership under the
27 program;

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29 **school district】** that the eligible teacher will teach at the nonpublic
30 school during hours **【following completion of the teacher's duties at**
31 **the public school, unless alternative scheduling is mutually agreed**
32 **upon by the school district and nonpublic school and is reflected in**
33 **a signed agreement】** during which the teacher has no conflicting
34 public school duties;

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36 teacher at the nonpublic school;

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38 will receive instruction from the eligible teacher under the proposed
39 schedule at the nonpublic school;

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41 teacher shall provide only secular instruction at the nonpublic
42 school; and

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45 business days, provide the school district in which the teacher is
46 employed the opportunity to object to the partnership identified in
47 the agreement. The school district shall submit to the commissioner
48 any valid objection within 10 business days. If a valid objection is

1 received, then the commissioner shall reject the application and,
2 within five business days, inform both the teacher and nonpublic
3 school that the application was rejected.

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5 awarding of grants under the program, including consideration of
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7 this section. To the maximum extent possible, the commissioner
8 shall select at least three nonpublic schools in each of the northern,
9 central, and southern regions of the State to participate in the
10 program, and nothing shall prohibit more than three nonpublic
11 schools in each region of the State from participating. During the
12 program's operation, the program may be expanded beyond the
13 nonpublic schools that were initially selected to participate, as
14 determined by the commissioner and subject to the availability of
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18 funds appropriated or otherwise made available for the program.
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20 allocated by the Department of Education to the school district of
21 each eligible teacher participating in the program. The school
22 district shall use the funds to provide compensation to a
23 participating eligible teacher pursuant to this subsection. The
24 commissioner shall establish the amount of each grant awarded for
25 an eligible teacher, subject to the following:

26 (1) A participating teacher shall receive an amount equal to the
27 teacher's **【annual salary as calculated on a per-hour basis】**
28 instructional hourly wage multiplied by the number of hours the
29 teacher will teach STEM classes at a nonpublic school under the
30 program.

31 (2) In the event that sufficient funds are not appropriated to
32 fully fund the compensation to be provided to participating eligible
33 teachers pursuant to paragraph (1) of this subsection, the
34 commissioner shall apportion the amount appropriated among the
35 participating eligible teachers in proportion to the compensation
36 each participating eligible teacher would have received had the full
37 amount been appropriated.

38 (3) Payments received by a participating teacher under the grant
39 program shall not be considered "compensation" under
40 N.J.S.18A:66-2.

41 d. Funds appropriated for the grant program shall be used
42 exclusively for the hiring of eligible teachers to teach STEM classes
43 at a participating nonpublic school, and the eligible teacher shall
44 teach only the classes stipulated under the program.

45 e. If at any time a participating nonpublic school determines
46 that a participating eligible teacher is not in compliance with the
47 program or is violating the nonpublic school's code of conduct, the
48 nonpublic school may submit information to the commissioner

1 supporting its determination, and request that the teacher be
2 removed from participation in the program at the nonpublic school.
3 The information submitted shall demonstrate noncompliance with
4 the program, the nonpublic school's code of conduct, or the
5 nonpublic school's faculty handbook. After reviewing the
6 information, the commissioner may terminate the teacher's
7 participation in the program at that nonpublic school.

8 f. The grant program established pursuant to section 2 of
9 P.L.2019, c.256 (C.18A:6-138) shall not infringe upon the
10 collective bargaining agreement between the majority representative
11 of the collective negotiations unit in which the participating eligible
12 teacher is a member and the school district in which the teacher is
13 employed.

14 g. Any appropriation for the grant program made in a fiscal
15 year that is not expended in that fiscal year shall be available to be
16 used for the same purpose in the subsequent fiscal years.

17 (cf: P.L.2019 , c.256 , s.3)

18

19 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

20

21

22

STATEMENT

23

24 This bill makes certain amendments to the STEM educator grant
25 program. The program provides grants for teachers in public school
26 districts to teach additional classes in science, technology,
27 engineering, mathematics, or computer science at nonpublic
28 schools.

29 This bill allows public school districts employing eligible
30 teachers to object to participation in the program for certain
31 allowable reasons. Currently, applications to participate in the
32 program are submitted by nonpublic schools with acknowledgement
33 of the arrangement from the public school district employing the
34 teacher. Under this bill, nonpublic schools would submit the
35 application unilaterally, and school districts would have the
36 opportunity to object to the application after submission if the
37 school district can demonstrate that the arrangement would conflict
38 with public school duties and no resolution could be found or that
39 students would otherwise be adversely affected by the arrangement.
40 The bill also broadens the times when a teacher may teach at the
41 nonpublic school to any hours during which the teacher has no
42 conflicting public school duties.

43 This bill also defines the manner in which a teacher's
44 instructional hourly wage must be determined. Under the bill, the
45 instructional hourly wage of an eligible teacher would be equal to
46 the teacher's salary for the previous school year, adjusted for
47 inflation, divided by the product of 36 and the average number of
48 weekly hours taught by the teacher in the prior school year.

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 2563

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 2, 2022

The Senate Education Committee favorably reports Senate Bill No. 2563.

This bill makes certain amendments to the STEM educator grant program. The program provides grants for teachers in public school districts to teach additional classes in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, or computer science at nonpublic schools.

This bill allows public school districts employing eligible teachers to object to participation in the program for certain allowable reasons. Currently, applications to participate in the program are submitted by nonpublic schools with acknowledgement of the arrangement from the public school district employing the teacher. Under this bill, nonpublic schools would submit the application unilaterally, and school districts would have the opportunity to object to the application after submission if the school district can demonstrate that the arrangement would conflict with public school duties and no resolution could be found or that students would otherwise be adversely affected by the arrangement. The bill also broadens the times when a teacher may teach at the nonpublic school to any hours during which the teacher has no conflicting public school duties.

This bill also defines the manner in which a teacher's instructional hourly wage must be determined. Under the bill, the instructional hourly wage of an eligible teacher would be equal to the teacher's salary for the previous school year, adjusted for inflation, divided by the product of 36 and the average number of weekly hours taught by the teacher in the prior school year.

ASSEMBLY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 2563

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: SEPTEMBER 22, 2022

The Assembly Education Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 2563 with committee amendments.

As amended, this bill makes certain amendments to the STEM educator grant program. The program provides grants for teachers in public school districts to teach additional classes in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, or computer science at nonpublic schools.

This bill allows public school districts employing eligible teachers to object to participation in the program for certain allowable reasons. Currently, applications to participate in the program are submitted by nonpublic schools with acknowledgement of the arrangement from the public school district employing the teacher. Under this bill, a nonpublic school would notify a school district that a teacher employed by the school district plans to participate in the program, and the school district would have the opportunity to object prior to submission of the application if the school district can demonstrate that the arrangement would conflict with public school duties and no resolution could be found or that students would otherwise be adversely affected by the arrangement. The bill also broadens the times when a teacher may teach at the nonpublic school to any hours during which the teacher has no conflicting public school duties.

As amended and reported by the committee, this bill is identical to Assembly Bill No. 3834, which was also amended and reported by the committee on this same date.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amended the bill to:

- specify that an eligible teacher who is currently employed by a public school district to teach in a science, technology, engineering, mathematics, or computer science field will teach a subject and a grade level in the nonpublic school for which the teacher holds appropriate certification, including certification without a specific subject matter endorsement where permitted by statute;
- remove the definition of “instructional hourly wage”;

- clarify that a participating teacher will receive an amount equal to the teacher's annual salary as calculated on a per-hour basis multiplied by the number of hours the teacher will teach STEM classes at a nonpublic school multiplied by 1.25;
- revise the provisions of the bill concerning the ability of school districts to object to the application to clarify that the notification from a nonpublic school that a teacher employed by a school district intends to participate in the program and the 10 day period for the school district to object to the partnership will occur prior to submission of the application; and
- state that school districts will use grant funds to provide compensation to a participating eligible teacher including applicable federal employment payroll taxes.

ASSEMBLY, No. 3834

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 9, 2022

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman GARY S. SCHAER

District 36 (Bergen and Passaic)

SYNOPSIS

Makes certain changes to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics educator grant program.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



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2 and amending P.L.2019, c.256.

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15 an endorsement in a science field, mathematics, technology
16 education, or computer science education; (2) is currently enrolled
17 in a degree program or a coherent sequence of courses in science,
18 mathematics, technology, or computer science; **[or]** (3) will enroll
19 in a degree program or a coherent sequence of courses in science,
20 mathematics, technology, or computer science within two years of
21 the effective date of P.L.2019, c.256 (C.18A:6-137 et seq.) or
22 within two years of participating in the grant program established
23 pursuant to section 2 of P.L.2019, c.256 (C.18A:6-138)**[.]** ; or (4)
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43 disapproves of an eligible teacher employed by the school district

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3 sufficient supporting proof, as determined by the Commissioner of
4 Education, one or more of the following reasons:

5 a. the proposed teaching hours at the nonpublic school conflict
6 with the teacher's public school work responsibilities and no
7 resolution could be found after consulting with the teacher and
8 nonpublic school; or

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11 of student instruction in the school district.

12 (cf: P.L.2019, c.256, s.1)

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8 the application information submitted pursuant to subsection a. of
9 this section. To the maximum extent possible, the commissioner
10 shall select at least three nonpublic schools in each of the northern,
11 central, and southern regions of the State to participate in the
12 program, and nothing shall prohibit more than three nonpublic
13 schools in each region of the State from participating. During the
14 program's operation, the program may be expanded beyond the
15 nonpublic schools that were initially selected to participate, as
16 determined by the commissioner and subject to the availability of
17 funds.

18 c. The commissioner shall award grants under the program
19 based upon review of the applications and subject to the limit of
20 funds appropriated or otherwise made available for the program.
21 **【Approved grant】** Grant funds for approved applications shall be
22 allocated by the Department of Education to the school district of
23 each eligible teacher participating in the program. The school
24 district shall use the funds to provide compensation to a
25 participating eligible teacher pursuant to this subsection. The
26 commissioner shall establish the amount of each grant awarded for
27 an eligible teacher, subject to the following:

28 (1) A participating teacher shall receive an amount equal to the
29 teacher's **【annual salary as calculated on a per-hour basis】**
30 instructional hourly wage multiplied by the number of hours the
31 teacher will teach STEM classes at a nonpublic school under the
32 program.

33 (2) In the event that sufficient funds are not appropriated to
34 fully fund the compensation to be provided to participating eligible
35 teachers pursuant to paragraph (1) of this subsection, the
36 commissioner shall apportion the amount appropriated among the
37 participating eligible teachers in proportion to the compensation
38 each participating eligible teacher would have received had the full
39 amount been appropriated.

40 (3) Payments received by a participating teacher under the grant
41 program shall not be considered "compensation" under
42 N.J.S.18A:66-2.

43 d. Funds appropriated for the grant program shall be used
44 exclusively for the hiring of eligible teachers to teach STEM classes
45 at a participating nonpublic school, and the eligible teacher shall
46 teach only the classes stipulated under the program.

47 e. If at any time a participating nonpublic school determines
48 that a participating eligible teacher is not in compliance with the

1 program or is violating the nonpublic school's code of conduct, the
2 nonpublic school may submit information to the commissioner
3 supporting its determination, and request that the teacher be
4 removed from participation in the program at the nonpublic school.
5 The information submitted shall demonstrate noncompliance with
6 the program, the nonpublic school's code of conduct, or the
7 nonpublic school's faculty handbook. After reviewing the
8 information, the commissioner may terminate the teacher's
9 participation in the program at that nonpublic school.

10 f. The grant program established pursuant to section 2 of
11 P.L.2019, c.256 (C.18A:6-138) shall not infringe upon the
12 collective bargaining agreement between the majority representative
13 of the collective negotiations unit in which the participating eligible
14 teacher is a member and the school district in which the teacher is
15 employed.

16 g. Any appropriation for the grant program made in a fiscal
17 year that is not expended in that fiscal year shall be available to be
18 used for the same purpose in the subsequent fiscal years.

19 (cf: P.L.2019 , c.256 , s.3)

20

21 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

22

23

24 STATEMENT

25

26 This bill makes certain amendments to the STEM educator grant
27 program. The program provides grants for teachers in public school
28 districts to teach additional classes in science, technology,
29 engineering, mathematics, or computer science at nonpublic
30 schools.

31 This bill allows public school districts employing eligible
32 teachers to object to participation in the program for certain
33 allowable reasons. Currently, applications to participate in the
34 program are submitted by nonpublic schools with acknowledgement
35 of the arrangement from the public school district employing the
36 teacher. Under this bill, nonpublic schools would submit the
37 application unilaterally, and school districts would have the
38 opportunity to object to the application after submission if the
39 school district can demonstrate that the arrangement would conflict
40 with public school duties and no resolution could be found or that
41 students would otherwise be adversely affected by the arrangement.
42 The bill also broadens the times when a teacher may teach at the
43 nonpublic school to any hours during which the teacher has no
44 conflicting public school duties.

45 This bill also defines the manner in which a teacher's
46 instructional hourly wage must be determined. Under the bill, the
47 instructional hourly wage of an eligible teacher would be equal to
48 the teacher's salary for the previous school year, adjusted for

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6

- 1 inflation, divided by the product of 36 and the average number of
- 2 weekly hours taught by the teacher in the prior school year.

ASSEMBLY HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 3834

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 13, 2022

The Assembly Higher Education Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 3834.

This bill makes certain amendments to the STEM educator grant program. The program provides grants for teachers in public school districts to teach additional classes in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, or computer science at nonpublic schools.

This bill allows public school districts employing eligible teachers to object to participation in the program for certain allowable reasons. Currently, applications to participate in the program are submitted by nonpublic schools with acknowledgement of the arrangement from the public school district employing the teacher. Under this bill, nonpublic schools would submit the application unilaterally, and school districts would have the opportunity to object to the application after submission if the school district can demonstrate that the arrangement would conflict with public school duties and no resolution could be found or that students would otherwise be adversely affected by the arrangement. The bill also broadens the times when a teacher may teach at the nonpublic school to any hours during which the teacher has no conflicting public school duties.

This bill also defines the manner in which a teacher's instructional hourly wage must be determined. Under the bill, the instructional hourly wage of an eligible teacher would be equal to the teacher's salary for the previous school year, adjusted for inflation, divided by the product of 36 and the average number of weekly hours taught by the teacher in the prior school year.

ASSEMBLY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 3834

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: SEPTEMBER 22, 2022

The Assembly Education Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 3834 with committee amendments.

As amended, this bill makes certain amendments to the STEM educator grant program. The program provides grants for teachers in public school districts to teach additional classes in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, or computer science at nonpublic schools.

This bill allows public school districts employing eligible teachers to object to participation in the program for certain allowable reasons. Currently, applications to participate in the program are submitted by nonpublic schools with acknowledgement of the arrangement from the public school district employing the teacher. Under this bill, a nonpublic school would notify a school district that a teacher employed by the school district plans to participate in the program, and the school district would have the opportunity to object prior to submission of the application if the school district can demonstrate that the arrangement would conflict with public school duties and no resolution could be found or that students would otherwise be adversely affected by the arrangement. The bill also broadens the times when a teacher may teach at the nonpublic school to any hours during which the teacher has no conflicting public school duties.

As amended and reported by the committee, this bill is identical to Senate Bill No. 2563, which was also amended and reported by the committee on this same date.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amended the bill to:

- specify that an eligible teacher who is currently employed by a public school district to teach in a science, technology, engineering, mathematics, or computer science field will teach a subject and a grade level in the nonpublic school for which the teacher holds appropriate certification, including certification without a specific subject matter endorsement where permitted by statute;
- remove the definition of “instructional hourly wage”;

- clarify that a participating teacher will receive an amount equal to the teacher's annual salary as calculated on a per-hour basis multiplied by the number of hours the teacher will teach STEM classes at a nonpublic school multiplied by 1.25;
- revise the provisions of the bill concerning the ability of school districts to object to the application to clarify that the notification from a nonpublic school that a teacher employed by a school district intends to participate in the program and the 10 day period for the school district to object to the partnership will occur prior to submission of the application; and
- state that school districts will use grant funds to provide compensation to a participating eligible teacher including applicable federal employment payroll taxes.

Governor Murphy Signs Legislation Expanding Access to STEM Education

11/2/2022

TRENTON – Governor Phil Murphy today signed legislation (S2563) amending the New Jersey Department of Education grant program for STEM teachers established by the Governor in 2019. Signed amid a nationwide teacher shortage, the law will incentivize public school STEM teachers to participate in the program and ensure that nonpublic school students have access to STEM education.

The legislation expands the number of educators who are eligible to provide STEM instruction at nonpublic schools in addition to their public school duties. The law also broadens the hours at which public school teachers can teach at nonpublic schools, in addition to increasing teacher compensation for participating in the program.

“As we continue to support our students through the most formidable challenges of the 21st century, it is imperative that we continue to ensure that all students have access to a world-class STEM education,” **said Governor Murphy**. “Since the beginning of my Administration, I have remained unwavering in my commitment not just to New Jersey children, but to the teachers responsible for our students’ instruction, safety, and wellbeing. The expansion of the program I signed into law three years ago will provide current and prospective public school educators with greater flexibility and compensation to provide STEM education to nonpublic school students.”

Primary sponsors for the legislation include Senators Vin Gopal and Shirley K. Turner and Assemblymembers Gary S. Schaer and Sterley S. Stanley.

“Given the difficult big picture environmental, technological and biological questions facing our world, the need for high-quality and diversified STEM classes, curriculum and instruction for our young people is more vital than ever,” **said Senator Gopal, Chair of the Senate Education Committee**. “By moving to further enhance the STEM educator grant program, we can attract more committed, well-qualified teachers to join the ranks, and feed the minds of hungry students who wish to pursue meaningful and worthwhile careers across the STEM spectrum.”

“The improved STEM Educator Grant Program is a crucial step in ensuring educational equity for every student in New Jersey, regardless of what school they attend,” **said Assemblyman Schaer**. “Generous State funded grants will create needed opportunities for our highly qualified public school teachers in nonpublic schools that cannot provide advanced STEM programming. This legislation represents an essential component of New Jersey’s historic investments in emerging technologies and groundbreaking innovations.”

“Educators throughout New Jersey share a common goal of wanting to provide students with greater learning opportunities in school and greater chances for success after graduation,” **said Dr. Angelica Allen-McMillan, Acting Commissioner of Education**. “This legislation helps us move toward that goal by building upon incentives designed to introduce high-quality STEM coursework to more New Jersey students.”

“This innovative program has expanded access to a STEM education for many communities and these changes will further enhance the ability of teachers to participate and for schools to utilize the educational opportunity it provides their students,” **said Katie Katz, Executive Director of Teach NJ**.

This Week in NJ - November 4, 2022

11/4/2022



Statement from Governor Murphy on Mitigation of Threat to Jewish Synagogues

"I am grateful to the FBI, as well as state law enforcement partners including the Attorney General's Office, the State Police, and the Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness, for their tireless efforts in mitigating the immediate threat to our Jewish synagogues. While this specific threat may be mitigated, we know this remains a tense time for our Jewish communities who are facing a wave of anti-Semitic activity. We will not be indifferent. We will remain vigilant. We will take any and every threat with the utmost seriousness and we will stand up and stand shoulder to shoulder with our Jewish congregations.

"This threat violated one of the most fundamental tenets of our nation – the right to worship according to the dictates of our consciences and our sacred and holy traditions. We will always endeavor to ensure that every New Jerseyan of every faith may continue to live, study, and worship without fear for their safety."

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Governor Murphy Signs Legislation to Increase Unemployment Insurance System’s Efficiency and Expedite Benefits Payments

Governor Phil Murphy signed legislation (S2357) which makes certain changes to the administration of the State’s unemployment insurance (“UI”) system to increase the system’s efficiency and expedite timely benefits payments. The Legislature concurred with the Governor’s conditional veto of an earlier version of the legislation, as the Governor had recommended changes necessary to ensure compliance with federal law.

"As we work to enhance the UI system, we must ensure that the process is timely and transparent from start to finish," **said Governor Murphy**. "The revisions sent back to the Legislature ensure compliance with federal law and I commend the bill's sponsors for their dedication to improving our State's UI system. Every eligible recipient of unemployment benefits deserves to receive assistance as expeditiously and efficiently as possible."



"We distributed \$37 billion to more than 2 million workers during the pandemic, but we never want to see even one resident struggle to pay their bills or find a new job," **said Labor Commissioner Robert Asaro-Angelo**.

"That's why we are so proud to be partnering with the US Department of Labor to develop a new, modern, agile unemployment system that is accessible, equitable and designed to shorten the time it takes for eligible workers to receive benefits. We are grateful to our legislative partners for continuing to advocate for their constituents and our claimants, and for giving us more tools to speed the review process for benefits."

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Secretary Way Warns NJ Voters About Election Misinformation

Secretary of State Tahesha Way, New Jersey's chief election official, is warning the public about text messages containing election misinformation being sent to some New Jersey voters. The messages, which appear to have been sent by an organization called Voting Futures, provide inaccurate voter registration information and direct the recipients to incorrect polling locations.



"Voters should know that your state and county election officials are the best source for trusted, verified

information about our elections,” **said Secretary Way.** “Voters can check their voter registration, find their polling location, and more at vote.nj.gov. We strongly caution voters against relying upon unverified sources when making a plan to vote.”

If voters need assistance or have any questions, their local, county, and state election officials are available to help. Voters can reach out to their County Clerk, County Board of Elections, County Superintendent of Elections, or call the state voter information/protection hotline at 1-877-NJVOTER (1-877-658- 6837). For more information on voting, visit Vote.NJ.Gov.

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NJ Human Services Partners with the NJ Department of Environmental Protection to Expand Access to Coastal Resources for Individuals with Disabilities

Human Services Commissioner Sarah Adelman and New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Shawn M. LaTourette announced the Department has awarded additional funding to continue helping communities implement inclusive initiatives that increase recreational access to coastal resources for individuals with disabilities.



The funding was awarded in collaboration with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

“At Human Services we remain focused on expanding accessibility and inclusion across the state so individuals with disabilities can thrive in the places they live, work, explore and play,” **Commissioner Adelman said.** “All New Jerseyans should have the opportunity to explore the wonders of the state’s coastal areas and connect with nature. We thank the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection for their partnership and commitment which help make these awards possible.”

“The Murphy Administration is committed to ensuring New Jersey’s diverse outdoor areas are accessible and inclusive for all, including our coastal treasures,” **Commissioner LaTourette said.** “DEP is proud to partner with DHS on this important initiative to help ensure every visitor can enjoy our coastal areas without impediment.”

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