

Date of Hearing: April 26, 2023

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Al Muratsuchi, Chair

AB 908 (Committee on Education) – As Amended March 27, 2023

SUBJECT: Teacher credentialing: National Board for Professional Teaching Standards Certification Incentive Program

SUMMARY: Authorizes teachers participating in the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards Certification Incentive Program (NBPTSCIP) to receive grant funding for the renewal of their certification, when serving at a high priority school. Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Authorizes, commencing July 1, 2023, any teacher who initiates the process of maintenance of certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) when teaching at a high-priority school to receive an award of \$495.
- 2) Requires that awards granted for maintenance of certification be disbursed from the California Department of Education (CDE) to the NBPTS, and requires that any unused funds be applied to future candidates.
- 3) Authorizes a teacher who receives an award for maintenance of certification to apply to receive funds from the NBPTS.
- 4) Authorizes funds previously appropriated for this program to be used for this purpose.
- 5) Requires that the determination of schools as “high-priority schools” for purposes of the program be made by the CDE, instead of as of the date of the agreement made by the applicant teacher.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Establishes the NBPTSCIP to award grants to school districts for the purpose of providing awards to teachers who are employed by school districts or charter schools, are assigned to teach in California public schools, and have attained or will attain certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.
- 2) Authorizes, commencing July 1, 2021, any teacher who has attained certification from the NBPTS to be eligible to receive an award of up to \$25,000 if the teacher agrees to teach at a high-priority school for at least five years. Requires that these grants be disbursed in annual payments of \$5,000 over a five-year period.
- 3) Authorizes, commencing July 1, 2021, any teacher who initiates the process of pursuing a certification from the NBPTS when teaching at a high-priority school to be eligible to receive an award of \$2,500.
- 4) Requires that awards be disbursed from the CDE to the NBPTS, and that any unused funds be applied to future candidates.

- 5) Authorizes a teacher who receives an award to still apply to receive funds after completion of a certification from the NBPTS, to the extent funds are available.
- 6) Requires the CDE to administer the awards and to develop, in consultation with the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC), certification and award information, criteria, procedures, and applications, all of which shall be submitted to the State Board of Education (SBE) for approval. Requires that amendments requested by the SBE be made before the dissemination of the material and the granting of any award under this article.
- 7) Requires the CDE to distribute these materials to school districts, and encourages school districts to ensure that teachers are informed about the program and can acquire the necessary application and information materials.
- 8) Encourages school districts to provide for adequate release time and support for a teacher to complete the certification process. Authorizes school districts to, as a condition to providing that release time and support, require that a teacher serve in a mentor teacher capacity.
- 9) Establishes the following definitions for the purpose of the program:
 - a) "School district" means school district, county board of education, county superintendent of schools, a state operated program, including a special school, a regional occupational center or program operated by a joint powers authority or a county office of education (COE), or an education program providing instruction in transitional kindergarten, through grade 12 that is offered by a state agency, including the Department of Youth and Community Restoration and the State Department of Developmental Services.
 - b) "High-priority school" means a school with 55% or more of its pupils being unduplicated pupils, as of the date of the agreement by the teacher. (Education Code (EC) 44935)

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown

COMMENTS:

Need for the bill. This bill, authored by the Education Committee of the Assembly, is intended to be an urgency measure containing substantive changes needed for the operation of the public schools.

National Board for Professional Teaching Standards certification program. According to the NBPTS, National Board Certification is the most respected professional certification available in education and provides numerous benefits to teachers, students and schools. It was designed to develop, retain and recognize accomplished teachers and to generate ongoing improvement in schools nationwide.

The NBPTSCIP awards grants to school districts for the purpose of providing incentives to teachers who have attained certification from the NBPTS and agree to teach at a high-priority school for at least five years. Additionally, any teacher who initiates the process of pursuing a certification from NBPTS when teaching at a high-priority school is eligible to receive a candidate subsidy to cover the costs of seeking certification.

According to the CDE, in the 2021-2022 school year 141 school districts, county offices, and charter schools participated in the program, receiving a total of \$9.8 million in program funds, of which \$6.7 million went to the Los Angeles Unified School District.

Arguments in support. The NBPTS writes, “To renew their certificates, National Board Certified Teachers go through a process called Maintenance of Certification every five years. Based on best assessment practices, Maintenance of Certification is designed to ensure NBCTs continue to grow professionally while maintaining a strong impact on student learning. Maintenance of Certification continually ensures the knowledge and skills of NBCTs as best practice and knowledge evolve.

AB 908 would allow National Board Certified Teachers to focus on their professional growth and learning rather than worrying about finding the funds to pay for the Maintenance of Certification process. This program would help NBCTs in high-priority schools, those schools least likely to have district funds and/or other funding sources (e.g., PTAs) available to help defray the cost of Maintenance of Certification. Finally, this would put NBCTs seeking to renew their certificates on equal footing with prospective NBCTs who receive subsidies for the initial certification process. The California National Board Incentive Program has been extremely successful in its first two years. We hope you will take this opportunity to further strengthen the program.”

Recommended Committee amendments. *Staff recommends that this bill be amended* to add an urgency clause, so that it may take effect for teachers renewing their certification at the beginning of the 2023-24 school year.

Related legislation. AB 130 (Committee on Budget), Chapter 44, Statutes of 2021, establishes the NBPTSCIP to award grants to school districts for the purpose of providing awards to teachers who are employed by school districts or charter schools, are assigned to teach in California public schools, and have attained or will attain certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

Edvoice
National Board for Professional Teaching Standards
2 individuals

Opposition

None on file

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