

SESSION OF 2023

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2081**

As Recommended by House Committee on  
Education

**Brief\***

HB 2081 would establish the Aspiring Future Teacher of the Year Scholarship Program Act (Act) and appropriate funds to the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) for the scholarship program for FY 2024 through FY 2028.

***Aspiring Future Teacher of the Year Scholarship  
Program – Appropriations (Sections 1-5)***

The bill would appropriate \$160,000 to KSDE from the State General Fund for the purpose of providing scholarships under the Act. The appropriations would be from FY 2024 through FY 2028 and provide for reappropriation of any excess funds in the respective fiscal year.

***Aspiring Future Teacher of the Year Scholarship  
Program Act (Sections 6-10)***

***Definitions (Section 7)***

The bill would define a “qualified student” as any individual who meets the following criteria:

- Is a resident of Kansas; and

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\*Supplemental notes are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. The supplemental note and fiscal note for this bill may be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.kslegislature.org>

- Has been accepted for admission to, or is enrolled in, a course of instruction leading to licensure as a teacher in a public or private university in the state.

The bill also would provide definitions for “postsecondary educational institution” and “private independent postsecondary educational institution.”

*Aspiring Future Teacher of the Year Scholarship Program  
(Sections 8-10)*

The bill would provide, within the limitations of appropriations, eight qualified students to be awarded scholarships of \$2,500 per semester. The bill would specify that all scholarships may be renewed annually for each scholarship recipient so long as the recipient continues to be a qualified student. Should a recipient not be enrolled full-time, the bill would require the scholarship to be proportional to the number of hours enrolled as compared to hours for a full-time student.

The bill would require scholarship recipients to be determined by the Commissioner of Education (Commissioner) in consultation with the prior school year’s Kansas Teacher of the Year. The bill would require the Commissioner, to the extent practicable, to award scholarships to qualified students whose backgrounds or attributes are similar to those of the prior year’s Kansas Teacher of the Year.

The bill would also require all scholarship recipients to enter into an agreement with the Commissioner that must require scholarship applicants to:

- Complete the required course of instruction as specified in the agreement;
- Obtain and maintain necessary licensure as specified in the agreement;

- Engage in teaching in Kansas and comply with terms and conditions established in the agreement;
- Commence teaching on a full-time basis in Kansas no later than six months after licensure in an accredited public elementary or public secondary school and continue teaching on a full-time basis for no less than two years; and
- Maintain all records and provide required reports to the Commissioner to document compliance with the Act and the agreement.

**Rules and regulations.** The bill would require the KSDE to adopt rules and regulations for the administration of the scholarship program and to establish terms, conditions, and obligations, which must be incorporated into the provisions of the written agreements between the scholarship applicants and the Commissioner.

### **Background**

The bill was introduced by the House Committee on Education at the request of Representative Thomas.

### ***House Committee on Education***

In the House Committee hearing, **proponent** testimony was provided by Representative Poskin and representatives of the Kansas Association of School Boards, Kansas Independent College Association, and Kansas National Education Association, and by a former Kansas Teacher of the Year. The proponents generally stated that the bill would help attract postsecondary students to become teachers by helping lower student debt and helping cover the cost of a semester of unpaid student teaching.

Written-only testimony was provided by a representative of the Kansas PTA and three former Kansas Teacher of the Year award recipients.

Written-only neutral testimony was provided by the Kansas State Board of Education. The testimony supported the goal of increasing student education majors, but suggested consideration of the expansion of scholarships in a current scholarship program managed by the Kansas Board of Regents.

No **opponent** testimony was provided.

### **Fiscal Information**

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, the bill would appropriate \$160,000 per fiscal year for FY 2024 through FY 2028. The Division of the Budget states that a maximum of \$40,000 would be expended in the first year of the program for scholarships with an increase of \$40,000 for each subsequent fiscal year, to a maximum of \$160,000 in scholarships awarded in fiscal year 2027. Additionally, KSDE estimates the bill would require additional expenditures of \$38,750 and 0.5 FTE to administer the scholarship program. The Division of the Budget estimates that all scholarship awards and administrative costs would be covered with the funds appropriated in the bill.

Any fiscal effect from enactment of the bill is not reflected in *The FY 2024 Governor's Budget Report*.

Education; appropriations; Aspiring Future Teacher of the Year Scholarship Program Act; State Department of Education; scholarships; postsecondary; rules and regulations; teachers