



Legislative  
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**SB 20-158**

# FINAL FISCAL NOTE

<b>Drafting Number:</b>	LLS 20-0489	<b>Date:</b>	September 9, 2020
<b>Prime Sponsors:</b>	Sen. Todd Rep. McLachlan; Wilson	<b>Bill Status:</b>	Signed into Law
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**Bill Topic:** **PROFESSIONAL TRAINING FOR EDUCATORS**

<b>Summary of Fiscal Impact:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> State Revenue	<input type="checkbox"/> TABOR Refund
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Expenditure	<input type="checkbox"/> Local Government
	<input type="checkbox"/> State Transfer	<input type="checkbox"/> Statutory Public Entity

The bill makes changes to programs intended to increase the number of educators in the state, and to the process for review and approval of educator preparation programs. The bill increases state workload on an ongoing basis.

**Appropriation Summary:** No appropriation is required.

**Fiscal Note Status:** This fiscal note reflects the enacted bill.

## Summary of Legislation

The bill modifies programs intended to increase the number of educators in the state. This bill:

- makes the educator loan forgiveness programs available to graduates from any program that leads to educator licensure, and removes the cap on the number of participants;
- specifies that certain stipends for teachers in rural areas are not considered student financial assistance; and
- specifies that teacher fellows may choose to have their stipend awarded as either wages for employment or state-based financial aid.

**Funding for rural teacher programs.** Under current law, the state provides funding for several stipend programs for rural teachers and the teacher fellowship program. The bill allows stipends to be awarded to individuals pursuing training necessary to fill a faculty need, and changes the allocation of funding for the rural teacher stipends and fellowship programs. After fully funding the teacher fellowship stipends, the total amount appropriated for all these programs is distributed as follows:

- 25 percent for stipends for student teachers who commit to working in a rural area;
- 25 percent for stipends for rural teachers pursuing NBCT certification, concurrent enrollment certification, or an additional teaching endorsement or master's degree in order to meet a faculty need; and
- 50 percent for stipends for rural teachers pursuing alternative licensure.

The Department of Higher Education (DHE) may adjust the allocation percentages based on feedback from rural school districts. If any money remains after awarding teacher stipends, it may be used for stipends to rural special service providers pursuing certification. Any unexpended, unencumbered appropriations for the teacher fellowship program is available for the stipend programs.

**Educator preparation programs.** Under current law, the Department of Higher Education, in conjunction with the Colorado Department of Education (CDE), must review each educator preparation program offered by an institution of higher education no more than once every five years. After a review, the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) may approve, place on probationary status, or terminate the program. The bill adds that CCHE may conditionally approve a program, and that the State Board of Education may recommend to the CCHE that a program be conditionally approved. In addition, the bill:

- requires that a program that is conditionally approved or on probationary status must receive additional reviews within the five year period;
- requires that CCHE policies include the process for programs to change their status, and the length of time a program can be conditionally approved or on probation;
- modifies the requirements that the CCHE and CDE must consider in approving educator preparation programs in the state; and
- requires that new educator preparation programs first be reviewed between 12 and 24 months after initial approval, and that modifications to existing programs related to field experiences or program delivery be submitted to CCHE for review.

In addition, the bill requires DHE to post on their website a description of existing programs and pathways that lead to teacher licensure, including alternative and traditional preparation programs, and teacher fellowship, grow your own educator, concurrent enrollment, teacher cadet, student teacher, teacher residency, and other similar pathways.

## **Background**

There are 52 educator preparation programs in Colorado that must meet the criteria and best practices in order to be approved and reauthorized every five years. These programs include 21 programs at institutions of higher education that are overseen by DHE, with assistance from CDE, and 31 alternative educator preparation programs overseen solely by CDE.

**Funding for teacher stipends and fellowship programs.** The teacher stipend programs provide stipends of up to \$4,800 or \$6,000 to teachers in rural areas who are pursuing NBCT, concurrent enrollment, or special services certification, who are pursuing alternative licensure, or who are completing their student teaching in the rural area. These programs are administered by the Center for Rural Education at the University of Northern Colorado.

The teacher fellowship program, which is administered by DHE, provides stipends of up to \$10,000 to teacher fellows in their last year of a teacher preparation program who commit to teaching in a rural area for two years. Stipend costs are split between state funding and funding from institutions of higher education.

**State Expenditures**

The bill increases workload for CDE, DHE and CCHE to modify procedures for approving educator preparation programs, including changing the evaluative criteria, creating a conditional approval option, and modifying review schedules for new and conditionally approved programs. Workload will also increase for DHE to post the educator pathways online and maintain the information on an annual basis. This workload can be accomplished within current appropriations.

In addition, the bill increases workload for DHE and the University of Northern Colorado, which runs the stipend programs, to implement the changes to the teacher stipend and fellowship programs.

**Educator loan forgiveness.** Removing the cap on participants and modifying the eligible programs for the educator loan forgiveness program does not require additional appropriations; however, it may result in additional competition for funds and increased workload in DHE to handle additional applications. To the extent that the General Assembly provides additional funding for the program, participation will increase beyond the current cap.

**Teacher stipends.** The bill changes the allocation of state appropriations among the different teacher stipend and fellowship programs, as shown in Table 1 for informational purposes. DHE may adjust the percentages in future years, and any funding available after stipends have been awarded may be used as stipends for rural providers pursuing certification as a special services provider. The bill does not change the overall amount required for the programs, nor does it change the administrative effort required.

**Table 1  
Funding for Teacher Stipend and Fellowship Programs  
FY 2019-20**

	<b>Current Law Appropriation*</b>	<b>Allocation Under the Bill</b>	
Teacher Fellowship Stipends	\$500,000	Fully Fund	\$150,000
Rural Teaching Stipends	\$617,000	Of Remaining:	-
<i>NBCT, concurrent enrollment, faculty need</i>		25%	\$241,750
<i>Student teachers</i>		25%	\$241,750
<i>Alternative licensure</i>		50%	\$483,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,117,000</b>		<b>\$1,117,000</b>

*\*Excludes administrative costs*

**Effective Date**

The bill was signed into law by the Governor and took effect on June 30, 2020.

**State and Local Government Contacts**

Education                      Higher Education