

# STATE OF NEW YORK

5595

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

## IN SENATE

March 11, 2021

Introduced by Sen. COMRIE -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Higher Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to providing for the enhancement of the quality of teaching in the public schools in New York city

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. The education law is amended by adding a new article 125-C  
2 to read as follows:

3 ARTICLE 125-C  
4 CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK  
5 CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE  
6 IN URBAN EDUCATION

7 Section 6284. City university of New York center for excellence in urban  
8 education.

9 § 6284. City university of New York center for excellence in urban  
10 education. 1. The legislature hereby finds and determines that there is  
11 a looming shortage of qualified teachers willing to consider teaching  
12 positions in urban schools. This shortage is evident in the state's five  
13 largest city school districts and has reached critical proportions in  
14 New York city.

15 2. There is hereby established the city university of New York center  
16 for excellence in urban education. The center shall be located at a  
17 city university of New York college accredited by the national council  
18 for accreditation of teacher education.

19 3. The center shall:

20 a. Collaborate with teachers from the city's urban centers to develop  
21 and deliver programs to address the particular needs of urban education,  
22 including, but not limited to, dealing with severe classroom management  
23 problems; issues of conflict and racial sensitivities; understanding the  
24 central role schools play in community development; and coping with and

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets  
[-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 compensating for a myriad of family and social issues that impact school  
2 performance.

3 b. Partner with urban school districts to (i) ensure high quality  
4 clinical education for preservice teacher education students in urban  
5 locations; (ii) design and implement programs to recruit children into  
6 careers of teaching; (iii) increase the number of minority candidates in  
7 teacher preparation programs and increase productivity in teaching  
8 fields of critical need including, but not limited to, childhood educa-  
9 tion with emphasis in science, mathematics, and reading; early adoles-  
10 cence education with emphasis in integrated science-mathematics-technol-  
11 ogy; adolescent education in science and mathematics; special education;  
12 bilingual special education; and bilingual speech pathology; (iv)  
13 attract teacher education students to jobs in urban locations of crit-  
14 ical need; and (v) systematically renew both the school and collegiate  
15 environments through joint professional development and scholarly activ-  
16 ities.

17 c. Provide special capstone programs for students from other  
18 colleges/universities in the state to recruit and qualify preservice  
19 educators for service in urban settings.

20 § 2. Section 605 of the education law is amended by adding a new  
21 subdivision 13 to read as follows:

22 13. Regents teacher loan forgiveness program. Regents teacher loan  
23 forgiveness awards shall be awarded annually to teachers who agree to  
24 teach public school in an area of New York state designated by the  
25 regents as having a shortage of public school teachers. Such awards  
26 shall be classified and allocated in accordance with regents rules.

27 a. Eligibility. (1) The applicant must be a resident of New York state  
28 and certified.

29 (2) The applicant must agree to teach public school in an area in New  
30 York state designated as having a shortage of public school teachers.

31 b. Selection. The commissioner shall establish criteria for the  
32 selection of participants in the program. An applicant must satisfy at  
33 least one of the criteria established. A priority shall be accorded to  
34 any applicant who is completing the second year of the service require-  
35 ment and is reapplying for a new award. The criteria shall include but  
36 not be limited to the following:

37 (1) reapplication for a new award by a person who is completing the  
38 second year of a service requirement;

39 (2) receipt of specific training in an area of certification deter-  
40 mined by the regents to be in short supply;

41 (3) receipt of specific training or experience in serving a shortage  
42 area;

43 (4) receipt of specific training or experience matching a specific  
44 educational need existing in a shortage area; and

45 (5) agreement pursuant to subdivision d of this section to teach  
46 public school in an area determined by the regents to have a severe  
47 shortage of public school teachers.

48 c. Notification. (1) The commissioner shall then forward approved  
49 applications to the president and shall notify unsuccessful applicants;

50 (2) The president shall verify the approved applicants':

51 (i) eligibility; and

52 (ii) total undergraduate and graduate school student expense;

53 (3) The president shall notify applicants of their award entitlement.

54 d. Service requirement. Within such time as the commissioner shall by  
55 regulation provide, a recipient of an award shall have agreed to teach  
56 public school in a specific area designated as having a shortage of

1 public school teachers for a period of ten months for each annual  
 2 payment to be received by the recipient. Teachers in training who  
 3 receive an award shall not receive credit toward their required service  
 4 for time spent in a training program. In no case shall the total number  
 5 of months of service required be less than twenty-four. The president  
 6 shall, in consultation with the commissioner, develop and secure from  
 7 each award recipient, a written agreement to:

8 (1) teach public school in the designated shortage area; and

9 (2) teach full-time and serve as an extra-curricular activity advisor  
 10 or coach.

11 If a recipient fails to comply fully with such conditions, the presi-  
 12 dent shall be entitled to receive from such recipient an amount to be  
 13 determined by the formula:

$$14 \quad A = 2B (t-s)$$

$$15 \quad \quad \quad \frac{\text{-----}}{t}$$

16  
 17 in which "A" is the amount the president is entitled to recover; "B"  
 18 is the sum of all payments made to the recipient and the interest on  
 19 such amount which would be payable if at the times such awards were paid  
 20 they were loans bearing interest at the maximum prevailing rate; "t" is  
 21 the total number of months in the recipient's period of obligated  
 22 services; and "s" is the number of months of service actually rendered  
 23 by the recipient. Any amount which the president is entitled to recover  
 24 under this paragraph shall be paid within the five-year period beginning  
 25 on the date that the recipient failed to comply with this service condi-  
 26 tion. Nothing in the written agreement shall affect the terms of employ-  
 27 ment of the individual who shall negotiate, separate and apart from the  
 28 program, his or her salary and other forms of employment with an agency,  
 29 institution or a program in which he or she shall be employed.

30 Any obligation to comply with such provisions as outlined in this  
 31 section shall be cancelled upon the death of the recipient. The commis-  
 32 sioner shall make regulations to provide for the waiver or suspension of  
 33 any financial obligation which would involve extreme hardship.

34 e. Reporting. A recipient of an award shall report annually to the New  
 35 York state higher education services corporation, and the department on  
 36 forms prescribed by the president, as to the performance of the required  
 37 services, commencing with the calendar year in which the recipient  
 38 begins to teach public school in a shortage area and continuing until  
 39 the recipient shall have completed, or it is determined that he or she  
 40 shall not be obligated to complete, the required services. If the  
 41 recipient shall fail to file any report required hereunder within thirty  
 42 days of written notice to the recipient, mailed to the address shown on  
 43 the last application for an award or last report filed, whichever is  
 44 later, the president of the corporation may impose a fine of up to one  
 45 thousand dollars. The president shall have the discretion to waive the  
 46 filing of a report, excuse a delay in filing or a failure to file a  
 47 report, or waive or reduce any fine imposed for good cause shown.

48 f. Other awards. Award recipients shall be eligible to apply for one  
 49 additional award.

50 § 3. The education law is amended by adding a new section 677-b to  
 51 read as follows:

52 § 677-b. Regents public school teacher loan forgiveness program. 1.  
 53 Number and certification. Eighty regents public school teacher loan  
 54 forgiveness awards shall be awarded each year. Such awards shall be  
 55 allocated as provided in article thirteen of this chapter to eligible

1 public school teachers as certified to the president by the commission-  
2 er.

3 2. Calculation of award amounts. Each award shall consist of two  
4 consecutive annual loan forgiveness payments. Each of the annual  
5 payments shall be for an amount equal to the total of undergraduate and  
6 graduate school student loan expense or ten thousand dollars whichever  
7 is less. The president shall be responsible for calculating the dollar  
8 amount of each award that eligible candidates may receive from this  
9 program. For the purposes of this section, student loan expense shall  
10 mean the cumulative total of the annual student loans covering the cost  
11 of attendance at an undergraduate institution and/or graduate school.  
12 Interest paid or due on student loans that an applicant has taken out  
13 for use in paying for such undergraduate and/or graduate education shall  
14 be considered eligible for reimbursement under this program.

15 3. Award disbursement. a. Annual award disbursements shall be the  
16 responsibility of the president and shall occur prior to the beginning  
17 of each of the required terms of service as specified in the service  
18 contract. The board of trustees of the higher education services corpo-  
19 ration shall adopt rules and regulations regarding criteria for deter-  
20 mining successful completion of the service contract and any appeal  
21 process that may be required to implement this paragraph upon recommen-  
22 dation of the president in consultation with the commissioner.

23 b. The disbursement of the second annual award shall be dependent upon  
24 successful completion of the first year requirement of the service  
25 contract as defined by the president, as well as other criteria set  
26 forth in this section.

27 § 4. This act shall take effect immediately.