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**ADD SCHOOL SYSTEMS TO THE TEACHER ASSISTANT TUITION REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM**

SECTION 7.21. Section 8.29 of S.L. 2016-94, as amended by Section 7.20 of S.L. 2017-57 and by Section 6(m) of S.L. 2017-189, reads as rewritten:

"SECTION 8.29.(a) Purpose. – The purpose of this section is to establish a pilot program ~~for, to provide tuition assistance awards to part-time or full-time teacher assistants working in participating local school administrative units, to be administered by certain local boards of education as follows:~~

- (1) ~~beginning~~ Beginning with the 2016-2017 fiscal year, the local boards of education of the Anson County, Franklin County, Moore County, Richmond County, and Scotland County school administrative ~~units and units.~~
- (2) ~~beginning~~ Beginning with the 2017-2018 fiscal year, the local boards of education of the Alamance-Burlington Schools, Beaufort County Schools, Bertie County Schools, Duplin County Schools, Edenton-Chowan Schools, Edgecombe County Schools, Guilford County Schools, Halifax County Schools, Nash-Rocky Mount Schools, Northampton County Schools, Randolph County Schools, Tyrrell County Schools, Vance County Schools, and Washington County ~~Schools~~ Schools.
- (3) Beginning with the 2018-2019 fiscal year, the local boards of education of the Alleghany County Schools, Ashe County Schools, Bladen County Schools, Cherokee County Schools, Clay County Schools, Columbus County Schools, Davidson County Schools, Graham County Schools, Greene County Schools, Jackson County Schools, Jones County Schools, Lenoir County Public Schools, Macon County Schools, McDowell County Schools, Mitchell County Schools, Public Schools of Robeson County, Swain County Schools, Yadkin County Schools, and Yancey County Schools.

~~to provide tuition assistance awards to part-time or full-time teacher assistants working in those local school administrative units to pursue a college degree that will result in teacher licensure.~~

Tuition assistance awards under the program may be provided for part-time or full-time ~~coursework, coursework~~ toward a college degree that will result in teacher licensure. A local board of education may grant a teacher assistant academic leave to pursue coursework that may only be taken during working hours. A teacher assistant receiving an award under the program shall fulfill the student teaching requirements of an educator preparation program by working in the teacher assistant's employing local school administrative unit. A teacher assistant shall continue to receive salary and benefits while student teaching in the local school administrative unit in accordance with G.S. 115C-269.30(c).

"SECTION 8.29.(b) Selection of applicants. – Each local board of education participating in the pilot program may select up to five teacher assistants to receive an award of up to four thousand ~~five-six~~ hundred dollars (\$4,500)(\$4,600) per academic year for a period of up to four years to be used towards the cost of tuition and fees for a teacher assistant to attend an educator preparation program at an institution of higher education. Priority for awards shall be given to a teacher assistant who received a tuition assistance award for the previous academic year and who is making satisfactory academic progress towards achieving teacher licensure. The local board of education shall set criteria for the application and selection of teacher assistants to receive tuition assistance awards that includes at least the following:

...

1       "SECTION 8.29.(d) The local boards of education participating in the pilot program for the  
2 2016-2017 fiscal year shall jointly report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee  
3 by September 1, 2017. All of the local boards of education participating in the pilot program shall  
4 jointly report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee ~~by September 1, 2018, and~~  
5 by September 1 of each year thereafter following the first full fiscal year of participation in the  
6 pilot program on the results of the pilot program, including at least the following information:

- 7           (1)     The number and amount of funds in tuition assistance awards provided to  
8                    teacher assistants.
- 9           (2)     The number of teacher assistant recipients who achieved teacher licensure,  
10                   including the period of time from the issue of an initial tuition assistance  
11                   award to the time of achieving licensure.
- 12           (3)     The number of recipients who remained employed in the local school  
13                   administrative unit after achieving teacher licensure."  
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