

Introduced by

Legislative Management

(Higher Education Committee)

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 15.1-02 of the North Dakota
2 Century Code, relating to teacher shortage loan forgiveness; to amend and reenact section
3 15.1-02-04 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the duties of the superintendent of
4 public instruction; and to provide an appropriation.

5 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

6 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 15.1-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is created
7 and enacted as follows:

8 **Loans - Teacher shortages - Loan forgiveness.**

- 9 1. The superintendent of public instruction shall administer a student loan forgiveness
10 program for individuals teaching at grade levels, in content areas, and in geographical
11 locations identified as having a teacher shortage or critical need. The superintendent
12 shall adopt rules to implement the program.
- 13 2. The superintendent annually shall identify grade levels, content areas, and
14 geographical locations in which a teacher shortage or critical need exists.
- 15 3. To be eligible for loan forgiveness under this section, an individual:
- 16 a. Must have graduated from an accredited teacher preparation program and
17 signed a contract to teach at a grade level or in a content area and in a
18 geographical location identified by the superintendent as having an existing
19 teacher shortage or critical need; and
- 20 b. Must have an existing student loan.
- 21 4. For purposes of this section, the definitions of rural school district and remote town
22 school district have the same meaning as the definitions under the national center for
23 education statistics locale codes.

- 1 5. If an individual is receiving loan forgiveness under any other provision, the individual
2 may not receive loan forgiveness under this section during the same application year.
- 3 6. Subject to legislative appropriations, an eligible individual may receive loan
4 forgiveness under the program as follows:
- 5 a. If the individual accepts one of up to five positions of critical need identified by the
6 superintendent of public instruction in a nonrural school district or nonremote
7 town school district, the individual may receive up to two thousand five hundred
8 dollars per year for a maximum of four years.
- 9 b. If the individual accepts a position in a rural school district or remote town school
10 district with an enrollment of fewer than one thousand students, the individual
11 may receive up to three thousand seven hundred fifty dollars per year for a
12 maximum of four years.
- 13 c. If the individual accepts one of up to five positions of critical need identified by the
14 superintendent of public instruction in a rural school district or remote town
15 school district with an enrollment of fewer than one thousand students, the
16 individual may receive up to five thousand dollars per year for a maximum of four
17 years.
- 18 7. The superintendent shall consider all applications under this section based on the
19 number of unfilled school vacancies, prioritized by critical need and geographic
20 location.
- 21 8. Upon notification the individual has completed a full year of teaching in a school
22 district, state-supported school, or nonpublic school in this state at a grade level or in a
23 content area and in a geographical location identified by the superintendent as one in
24 which a teacher shortage or critical need exists, the superintendent shall distribute
25 funds directly to the lending institution of the individual to repay outstanding loan
26 principal balances on behalf of an eligible applicant. The superintendent shall
27 terminate loan forgiveness payments to an eligible individual if the loan principal
28 balance of the eligible individual is paid in full.

29 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 15.1-02-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is
30 amended and reenacted as follows:

1 **15.1-02-04. Superintendent of public instruction - Duties. (Effective through June 30,**
2 **2023)**

3 The superintendent of public instruction:

- 4 1. Shall supervise the provision of elementary and secondary education to the students
5 of this state.
- 6 2. Shall supervise the establishment and maintenance of schools and provide advice and
7 counsel regarding the welfare of the schools.
- 8 3. Shall supervise the development of course content standards.
- 9 4. Shall supervise the assessment of students.
- 10 5. Shall serve as an ex officio member of the board of university and school lands.
- 11 6. Shall keep a complete record of all official acts and appeals.
- 12 7. As appropriate, shall determine the outcome of appeals regarding education matters.
- 13 8. Shall direct school district annexation, reorganization, and dissolution and employ and
14 compensate personnel necessary to enable the state board of public school education
15 to carry out its powers and duties regarding school district annexation, reorganization,
16 and dissolution.
- 17 9. Shall facilitate a process to review and update annually the statewide prekindergarten
18 through grade twelve education strategic vision. The process must include input and
19 participation from a steering committee that includes representatives of all state-level
20 entities receiving state education funding and education stakeholder groups. Each
21 steering committee member entity receiving state education funds shall provide
22 components of the entity's strategic plan which are aligned to the statewide strategic
23 vision. The steering committee shall prepare a collaborative report of the strategic
24 plans of each committee member entity receiving state education funds. The
25 superintendent shall provide the collaborative report and any updates to the strategic
26 vision to the legislative management during each interim and to a joint meeting of the
27 education standing committees during each regular legislative session.
- 28 10. Shall administer a student loan forgiveness program for individuals teaching at grade
29 levels, in content areas, and in geographical locations identified as having a teacher
30 shortage or critical need.

- 1 11. Shall facilitate the development and implementation of a North Dakota learning
2 continuum in collaboration with the department of career and technical education,
3 upon the recommendation of the kindergarten through grade twelve education
4 coordination council.
- 5 12. Shall collaborate with workforce development stakeholders and the kindergarten
6 through grade twelve education coordination council to determine how best to
7 integrate computer science and cybersecurity into elementary, middle, and high school
8 curriculum under sections 15.1-21-01 and 15.1-21-02. Before September 1, 2022, the
9 superintendent shall provide a report to the legislative management regarding the
10 outcome of this collaboration.

11 **Superintendent of public instruction - Duties. (Effective after June 30, 2023)**

12 The superintendent of public instruction:

- 13 1. Shall supervise the provision of elementary and secondary education to the students
14 of this state.
- 15 2. Shall supervise the establishment and maintenance of schools and provide advice and
16 counsel regarding the welfare of the schools.
- 17 3. Shall supervise the development of course content standards.
- 18 4. Shall supervise the assessment of students.
- 19 5. Shall serve as an ex officio member of the board of university and school lands.
- 20 6. Shall keep a complete record of all official acts and appeals.
- 21 7. As appropriate, shall determine the outcome of appeals regarding education matters.
- 22 8. Shall direct school district annexation, reorganization, and dissolution and employ and
23 compensate personnel necessary to enable the state board of public school education
24 to carry out its powers and duties regarding school district annexation, reorganization,
25 and dissolution.
- 26 9. Shall facilitate a process to review and update annually the statewide prekindergarten
27 through grade twelve education strategic vision. The process must include input and
28 participation from a steering committee that includes representatives of all state-level
29 entities receiving state education funding and education stakeholder groups. Each
30 steering committee member entity receiving state education funds shall provide
31 components of the entity's strategic plan which are aligned to the statewide strategic

1 vision. The steering committee shall prepare a collaborative report of the strategic
2 plans of each committee member entity receiving state education funds. The
3 superintendent shall provide the collaborative report and any updates to the strategic
4 vision to the legislative management during each interim and to a joint meeting of the
5 education standing committees during each regular legislative session.

6 10. Shall administer a student loan forgiveness program for individuals teaching at grade
7 levels, in content areas, and in geographical locations identified as having a teacher
8 shortage or critical need.

9 11. Shall facilitate the development and implementation of a North Dakota learning
10 continuum in collaboration with the department of career and technical education,
11 upon the recommendation of the kindergarten through grade twelve education
12 coordination council.

13 **SECTION 3. APPROPRIATION - DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION - TEACHER**
14 **SHORTAGE STUDENT LOAN FORGIVENESS PROGRAM.** There is appropriated out of any
15 moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of
16 \$3,000,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the department of public instruction
17 for the purpose of teacher shortage student loan forgiveness payments, for the biennium
18 beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025.