

House Study Bill 648 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE _____
BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION BILL BY CHAIRPERSON
WHEELER)

A BILL FOR

- 1 An Act relating to the teach Iowa scholar program, including
2 modifying eligibility provisions and establishing funding
3 allocations.
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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1 Section 1. Section 256.218, subsection 3, paragraph a, Code
2 2026, is amended by striking the paragraph.

3 Sec. 2. Section 256.218, Code 2026, is amended by adding the
4 following new subsection:

5 NEW SUBSECTION. 7. For each fiscal year beginning on or
6 after July 1, 2026, of the moneys awarded pursuant to the teach
7 Iowa scholar fund, all of the following shall apply:

8 a. Twenty percent shall be awarded to eligible classroom
9 teachers who provide special education instruction.

10 b. Fifty percent shall be awarded to eligible classroom
11 teachers who are employed by a rural school district. For
12 purposes of this paragraph, "rural school district" means a
13 school district with a certified enrollment of fewer than one
14 thousand students.

15 EXPLANATION

16 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
17 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

18 This bill relates to the teach Iowa scholar program,
19 including modifying eligibility provisions and establishing
20 funding allocations.

21 The teach Iowa scholar program provides selected applicants
22 an annual grant of up to \$4,000 for each year of full-time
23 employment as a teacher in this state, not to exceed \$20,000
24 over a five-year period. Eligible applicants must be preparing
25 to teach in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics;
26 English as a second language or special education instruction;
27 or a hard-to-staff subject as identified by the department of
28 education. Under current law, applicants must have been in the
29 top 25 percent academically of their teacher preparation program.

30 The bill strikes the eligibility requirement that applicants
31 be in the top 25 percent academically of students exiting a
32 teacher preparation program.

33 The bill requires that for each fiscal year beginning on or
34 after July 1, 2026, of the moneys awarded pursuant the teach
35 Iowa scholar fund, 20 percent be awarded to eligible teachers

1 who provide special education instruction, and 50 percent be
2 awarded to eligible classroom teachers who are employed by a
3 rural school district. The bill defines "rural school district"
4 as a school district with a certified enrollment of fewer than
5 1,000 students.

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