

**Senate File 286 - Introduced**

SENATE FILE 286  
BY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

(SUCCESSOR TO SF 72)

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to education, including by modifying provisions  
2 related to the national board certification pilot project  
3 and establishing the advanced dyslexia specialist endorsement  
4 competitive scholar program within the college student aid  
5 commission, and including effective date provisions.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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1 Section 1. Section 256.44, subsection 1, unnumbered paragraph  
2 1, Code 2025, is amended to read as follows:

3 A national board certification ~~pilot project~~ program is  
4 established to be administered by the department of education.  
5 A teacher, as defined in section 256.145, who registers for  
6 or achieves national board for professional teaching standards  
7 certification, and who is employed by a school district in Iowa  
8 and receiving a salary as a classroom teacher, may be eligible  
9 for the following:

10 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. **256.220A Advanced dyslexia specialist**  
11 **endorsement competitive scholar program.**

12 1. As used in this section:

13 a. "Commission" means the college student aid commission.

14 b. "Teacher" means an individual holding a practitioner's  
15 license issued by the board of educational examiners under part  
16 3.

17 2. An advanced dyslexia specialist endorsement competitive  
18 scholar program is established to be administered by the  
19 commission. The purpose of the advanced dyslexia specialist  
20 endorsement competitive scholar program is to provide tuition  
21 reimbursement to teachers to offset the costs associated with  
22 obtaining an advanced dyslexia specialist endorsement issued by  
23 the board of educational examiners.

24 3. A teacher is eligible for the advanced dyslexia specialist  
25 endorsement competitive scholar program if the teacher is  
26 employed by a school district, accredited nonpublic school,  
27 charter school, innovation zone school, or an area education  
28 agency, and the teacher is working toward obtaining an  
29 advanced dyslexia specialist endorsement issued by the board of  
30 educational examiners pursuant to section 256.146, subsection 21.

31 4. Each applicant for tuition reimbursement under the  
32 advanced dyslexia specialist endorsement competitive scholar  
33 program shall, in accordance with the rules adopted by the  
34 commission pursuant to subsection 8, do all of the following:

35 a. Complete and file an application for tuition

1 reimbursement. The applicant shall be responsible for the prompt  
2 submission of any information required by the commission.

3 b. File a new application and submit information as required  
4 by the commission annually on the basis of which the applicant's  
5 eligibility for the renewed tuition reimbursement will be  
6 evaluated and determined.

7 c. Complete and return, on a form approved by the commission,  
8 an affidavit of practice verifying the applicant is teaching in  
9 an Iowa school or an area education agency.

10 5. An individual shall be eligible for tuition reimbursement  
11 under this section for not more than two years. The  
12 total amount of tuition reimbursement provided to a recipient  
13 under this section shall not exceed the recipient's total  
14 dyslexia specialist endorsement tuition costs. The commission  
15 shall determine the number of individuals who receive tuition  
16 reimbursement, and the tuition reimbursement amounts provided to  
17 each individual, based on the number of individuals who apply  
18 for tuition reimbursement under this section and the funding  
19 available for tuition reimbursement.

20 6. An advanced dyslexia specialist endorsement competitive  
21 scholar program fund is established in the state treasury.  
22 The fund shall be administered by the commission and shall  
23 consist of moneys appropriated by the general assembly and other  
24 moneys received by the commission for deposit in the fund.  
25 The moneys in the fund are appropriated to the commission for  
26 the advanced dyslexia specialist endorsement competitive scholar  
27 program. Notwithstanding section 8.33, moneys in the fund at  
28 the close of the fiscal year shall not revert to the general  
29 fund of the state but shall remain available for expenditure for  
30 the advanced dyslexia specialist endorsement competitive scholar  
31 program for subsequent fiscal years. Notwithstanding section  
32 12C.7, subsection 2, interest or earnings on moneys in the fund  
33 shall be credited to the fund.

34 7. The commission shall incorporate into the annual report  
35 submitted to the general assembly pursuant to section 256.177,

1 subsection 8, information related to the advanced dyslexia  
2 specialist endorsement competitive scholar program, including  
3 the number of individuals who received tuition reimbursement  
4 pursuant to this section, where the recipients taught, the amount  
5 paid to each recipient, and other information identified by the  
6 commission as indicators of outcomes of the program.

7 8. The commission shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter 17A  
8 to administer this section, including rules related to tuition  
9 reimbursement application materials, eligibility requirements,  
10 application evaluation criteria, and award criteria.

11 Sec. 3. Section 284.13, subsection 1, paragraph a, Code 2025,  
12 is amended to read as follows:

13 a. (1) For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, and  
14 ending June 30, 2025, to the department, the amount of five  
15 hundred eight thousand two hundred fifty dollars for the issuance  
16 of national board certification awards in accordance with section  
17 256.44. Of the amount allocated under this paragraph, not less  
18 than eighty-five thousand dollars shall be used to administer  
19 the ambassador to education position in accordance with section  
20 256.45.

21 (2) Notwithstanding section 8.33, funds appropriated for  
22 purposes of this paragraph which remain unencumbered or  
23 unobligated at the close of the fiscal year for which the funds  
24 were appropriated shall not revert but shall be transferred  
25 to the advanced dyslexia specialist endorsement competitive  
26 scholar program fund established pursuant to section 256.220A, if  
27 enacted.

28 Sec. 4. CODE EDITOR DIRECTIVE. The Code editor shall  
29 designate section 256.220A, as enacted in this Act, as a new  
30 section within chapter 256, subchapter VII, part 4, subpart  
31 J, and may redesignate the preexisting subpart and correct  
32 internal references as necessary, including references to subpart  
33 headnotes.

34 Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act, being deemed of immediate  
35 importance, takes effect upon enactment.

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EXPLANATION

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

This bill relates to education, including by modifying provisions related to the national board certification pilot project and establishing the advanced dyslexia specialist endorsement competitive scholar program within the college student aid commission (CSAC).

Current law establishes a national board certification pilot project, which is administered by the department of education (DE). The project is a certification program that is available to teachers and that provides financial awards to those teachers if the teachers can achieve certification. The bill changes the name of this project to the national board certification program.

The bill provides that the advanced dyslexia specialist endorsement competitive scholar program will provide tuition reimbursement to teachers to offset the costs associated with obtaining an advanced dyslexia specialist endorsement issued by the board of educational examiners. A teacher is eligible for the program if the teacher is employed by a school district, accredited nonpublic school, charter school, innovation zone school, or an area education agency, and the teacher is working toward obtaining an advanced dyslexia specialist endorsement.

The bill provides that an individual shall be eligible for tuition reimbursement under the program for not more than two years. The bill establishes the total amount of tuition reimbursement that CSAC may provide to a recipient.

The bill establishes an advanced dyslexia specialist endorsement competitive scholar program fund. The bill also establishes reporting requirements for CSAC related to the program. CSAC is required to adopt rules to administer the program.

The bill provides that funds appropriated to DE for purposes of the issuance of national board certification awards pursuant to Code section 284.13(1)(a) for fiscal year 2025 that remain

1 unencumbered or unobligated at the close of that fiscal  
2 year shall be transferred to the advanced dyslexia specialist  
3 endorsement competitive scholar program fund.  
4 The bill takes effect upon enactment.

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