

Senate File 72 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 72

BY TAYLOR

(COMPANION TO LSB 1609HH BY
INGELS)

A BILL FOR

- 1 An Act establishing the advanced dyslexia specialist endorsement
- 2 competitive scholar program within the college student aid
- 3 commission and making appropriations.
- 4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

unofficial

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. **256.220A Advanced dyslexia**
2 **specialist endorsement competitive scholar program.**

3 1. As used in this section:

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

5 b. "Teacher" means an individual holding a practitioner's
6 license issued by the board of educational examiners under part
7 3.

8 2. An advanced dyslexia specialist endorsement competitive
9 scholar program is established to be administered by the college
10 student aid commission. The purpose of the advanced dyslexia
11 specialist endorsement competitive scholar program is to provide
12 tuition reimbursement to teachers to offset the costs associated
13 with obtaining an advanced dyslexia specialist endorsement issued
14 by the board of educational examiners.

15 3. A teacher is eligible for the advanced dyslexia specialist
16 endorsement competitive scholar program if the teacher works in
17 a school in this state, or in an area education agency, and
18 the teacher is working toward obtaining an advanced dyslexia
19 specialist endorsement issued by the board of educational
20 examiners pursuant to section 256.146, subsection 21.

21 4. Each applicant for tuition reimbursement under the
22 advanced dyslexia specialist endorsement competitive scholar
23 program shall, in accordance with the rules adopted by the
24 college student aid commission pursuant to subsection 8, do all
25 of the following:

26 a. Complete and file an application for tuition
27 reimbursement. The applicant shall be responsible for the prompt
28 submission of any information required by the college student aid
29 commission.

30 b. File a new application and submit information as required
31 by the college student aid commission annually on the basis
32 of which the applicant's eligibility for the renewed tuition
33 reimbursement will be evaluated and determined.

34 c. Complete and return, on a form approved by the college
35 student aid commission, an affidavit of practice verifying the

1 applicant is teaching in an Iowa school or an area education
2 agency.

3 5. a. An individual shall be eligible for tuition
4 reimbursement under this section for not more than two years.
5 The total amount of tuition reimbursement provided to a recipient
6 under this section shall not exceed seventy-five percent of the
7 recipient's total dyslexia specialist endorsement tuition costs.

8 b. (1) The college student aid commission shall make the
9 first payment to the recipient under this section, totaling not
10 more than one-half of the amount payable under paragraph "a",
11 after the recipient's first year teaching in an Iowa school or
12 area education agency.

13 (2) The college student aid commission shall make the second
14 payment to the recipient under this section, totaling the
15 remainder of the amount payable under paragraph "a", after the
16 recipient's second year teaching in an Iowa school or area
17 education agency.

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

32 7. The commission shall incorporate into the annual report
33 submitted to the general assembly pursuant to section 256.177,
34 subsection 8, information related to the advanced dyslexia
35 specialist endorsement competitive scholar program, including

1 the number of individuals who received tuition reimbursement
2 pursuant to this section, where the recipients taught, the amount
3 paid to each recipient, and other information identified by the
4 commission as indicators of outcomes of the program.

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

10 Sec. 2. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION — COLLEGE STUDENT AID
11 COMMISSION — ADVANCED DYSLEXIA SPECIALIST ENDORSEMENT
12 COMPETITIVE SCHOLAR PROGRAM. There is appropriated from the
13 general fund of the state to the department of education for the
14 fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026, the
15 following amount, or so much thereof as is necessary, to be used
16 for the purposes designated:

17 For deposit in the advanced dyslexia specialist endorsement
18 competitive scholar program fund established pursuant to section
19 256.220A, if enacted:

20 \$ 335,000

21 Sec. 3. CODE EDITOR DIRECTIVE. The Code editor shall
22 designate section 256.220A, as enacted in this Act, as a new
23 section within chapter 256, subchapter VII, part 4, subpart
24 J, and may redesignate the preexisting subpart and correct
25 internal references as necessary, including references to subpart
26 headnotes.

27 EXPLANATION

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

30 This bill establishes the advanced dyslexia specialist
31 endorsement competitive scholar program within the college
32 student aid commission for purposes of providing tuition
33 reimbursement to teachers to offset the costs associated with
34 obtaining an advanced dyslexia specialist endorsement issued by
35 the board of educational examiners. A teacher is eligible for

1 the program if the teacher works in a school in this state, or
2 in an area education agency, and the teacher is working toward
3 obtaining an advanced dyslexia specialist endorsement.

4 The bill requires applicants for tuition reimbursement under
5 the program to complete and file an application for tuition
6 reimbursement, file a new application and submit information as
7 required by the commission annually, and complete and return an
8 affidavit of practice verifying the applicant is teaching in an
9 Iowa school or an area education agency.

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

14 The bill establishes an advanced dyslexia specialist
15 endorsement competitive scholar program fund and appropriates
16 \$335,000 to the fund in FY 2025-2026. The bill also establishes
17 reporting requirements for the commission related to the program.
18 The commission is required to adopt rules to administer the
19 program.