
BUDGET UNIT BRIEF – FY 2021

Fiscal Services Division

July 1, 2020



Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

Student Achievement and Teacher Quality

Overview

Student Achievement and Teacher Quality (SATQ) was first funded in FY 2002 to provide a structure for increasing teacher salaries while emphasizing student achievement. From the start of the appropriation to FY 2009, the SATQ appropriation included funding to supplement base teacher compensation statewide. In FY 2010, the funding for the teacher salary supplement was shifted from the SATQ appropriation to the school aid formula. In FY 2015, funding began for the Teacher Leadership and Compensation Grant. The SATQ appropriation is allocated across six programs:

- National Board Certification (\$423,000).
- Ambassador to Education (\$85,000).
- Career Development and Evaluator Training (\$728,000).
- Teacher Development Academies (\$1.1 million).
- Teacher Leadership and Compensation Technical Assistance (\$626,000).
- Fine Arts Mentoring (\$25,000).

National Board Certification

National Board Certification (NBC) is a certification program designed and administered by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS). The certification is available to teachers nationwide and requires candidates to demonstrate teaching practice as measured against rigorous standards.

The State began funding awards for teachers receiving NBC in FY 1999. During the 2007 Legislative Session, [SF 277](#) (Educational Standards – Practitioners and Staff and Student Achievement Act) ended funding for teachers receiving NBC after December 31, 2007. During the 2012 Legislative Session, [SF 2284](#) (Education Reform Act) reestablished the financial incentives provided to Iowa teachers certified by the NBPTS. The 2012 statutory change allowed those who qualified after December 31, 2007, and before July 1, 2012, to apply for the award prior to May 1, 2013. In addition, all future applicants who submit paperwork within one year of certification will also be eligible for the funding. In order to be eligible for the award, a teacher must meet all of the following qualifications:

- Has all qualifications required by the NBPTS for application for certification.

More Information

Iowa Department of Education: www.educateiowa.gov
Student Achievement, Accountability, and Professional Development Annual Report:
www.educateiowa.gov/sites/files/ed/documents/2108%20Accountability%20Legislative%20Report_01.02.18%20%282%29.pdf
LSA Staff Contact: Lora Vargason (515.725.2249) lora.vargason@legis.iowa.gov

- Is currently a teacher.
- Is employed by a school district in Iowa.
- Receives a salary as a classroom teacher.
- Completes the Department of Education (DE) application process. This includes submitting verification of NBC registration.
- Has not received reimbursement from this program at any previous time.

A teacher meeting the qualifications is eligible to receive the following awards:

- An initial reimbursement of one-half of the registration fee charged by the NBPTS. The registration fee includes a \$2,500 certification assessment fee.
- Final reimbursement of the remaining one-half of the registration fee charged by the NBPTS when the teacher notifies the DE that certification has been achieved.
- A \$2,500 annual award for a maximum of 10 years.

Ambassador to Education

The allocation for NBC also includes a suballocation for the ambassador to education. The role of ambassador is filled by the Iowa Teacher of the Year, who acts as an education liaison to primary and secondary schools in Iowa. The DE awards the suballocation to the school to pay the salary and benefits of the teacher selected as ambassador to education to allow a one-year sabbatical.

Career Development and Evaluator Training

The Department coordinates a statewide network of professional development resources that aligns with the Iowa teaching standards and contains research-based instructional strategies, instructional improvement strategies, and evaluations. This allocation also supports developing teacher quality committees in every school district and area education agency (AEA). Teacher quality committees monitor the implementation, evaluation, and adoption of professional development plans to ensure the plans align with the professional development plans adopted by the school district or AEA.

Evaluator training is provided to administrators and other school officials who make employment decisions, perform teacher evaluations, and make licensure recommendations. The training is required for evaluator licensure from the Board of Educational Examiners. The Department is authorized to maintain up to 4.0 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions for administrative purposes related to evaluator training.

Teacher Development Academies

Teacher Development Academies increase teacher skills and student achievement through intensive professional development. The Academies feature research-based content and are designed to support local school districts and AEAs in offering professional development based on the Iowa Professional Development Model.

Teacher Leadership and Compensation Technical Assistance

During the 2013 Legislative Session, [HF 215](#) (Education Reform Appropriations Act) created the Teacher Leadership and Compensation (TLC) System, which began in FY 2015. The statute authorized \$50.0 million each year from FY 2015 through FY 2017. Currently, the primary TLC allocation is funded for all school districts through the school aid formula.

Fine Arts Mentoring

This allocation funds a contract between the DE and the Iowa Arts Alliance that provides professional development and mentoring services for beginning fine arts teachers. Mentoring services include guidance in the classroom and in meetings, resources, time, materials, and financial scholarships for beginning fine arts teachers to attend conferences.

The Iowa Arts Alliance must provide quarterly reports to the DE detailing the organization's compliance with all requirements.

Fine Arts Mentoring was first funded in FY 2017 under its own appropriation; in FY 2018, it became an allocation under SATQ. The Iowa Arts Alliance is required to match every dollar provided by the Department with another funding source.

High-Need Schools

The SATQ appropriation also includes an allocation for High-Need School Supplemental Assistance. This funding would allow school districts to develop extended learning time programs, hire instructional support staff, provide additional professional development, or supplement the salary of teachers in schools identified as high-need schools by the Department. High-Need School Supplemental Assistance does not have a sunset date and continues indefinitely. The program was originally set to begin in FY 2015, but as of this year no funds have been made available.

Funding

The current total appropriation is \$3.0 million.

Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code chapter [284](#)

Iowa Code sections [256.44](#) and [256.45](#)

Iowa Administrative Code [281—83](#) and [281—84](#)

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