

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2002 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 51 (Delegates Leopold and McKee)
 Ways and Means

Education - State Stipends - Eligibility of Library Media Specialists and Reading Specialists

This bill allows school library media specialists and reading specialists to receive teacher incentive stipends and bonuses. The incentives are: (1) stipends of up to \$2,000 for specialists certified by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards; (2) signing bonuses of \$1,000 for newly-hired specialists who graduated in the top 10% of their college classes; and (3) stipends of \$2,000 for specialists with advanced professional certificates who teach in challenge schools or schools under local or State reconstitution.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures would increase by an estimated \$608,000 in FY 2003. Future year expenditure estimates reflect a stable number of individuals eligible for incentives. No effect on revenues.

(in dollars)	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	608,000	608,000	608,000	608,000	608,000
Net Effect	(\$608,000)	(\$608,000)	(\$608,000)	(\$608,000)	(\$608,000)

Note:() = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate effect

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Only classroom teachers are eligible to receive State incentive stipends and bonuses. The incentives are: (1) stipends of up to \$2,000 for specialists certified by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards; (2) signing bonuses of \$1,000 for newly-hired specialists who graduated in the top 10% of their college classes; and (3) stipends of \$2,000 for specialists with advanced professional certificates who teach in challenge schools or schools under local or State reconstitution. State stipends for teachers who are certified by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards match the local stipends provided to these teachers, up to a maximum of \$2,000. Teachers receiving the \$1,000 signing bonus must stay employed in the school system that hired them for three consecutive years or reimburse the State for the bonus. To earn the annual \$2,000 State stipends for teaching in challenge schools and schools under State and local reconstitution, teachers with advanced professional certification must perform satisfactorily.

Background: Stipends and bonuses for classroom teachers were established under the Teacher Quality Incentive Act of 1999 (Chapter 600). In the 2000-2001 school year, 69 teachers who are certified by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards received stipends totaling \$103,500, and 2,714 teachers holding advanced professional certificates and teaching in challenge schools and reconstituted schools received stipends totaling \$5.4 million. In addition, 135 newly-hired teachers received the \$1,000 signing bonus. The proposed fiscal 2003 State budget includes \$7.2 million for the incentives.

State Expenditures: There are three separate incentives that reading specialists and library media specialists would be eligible to receive under the bill. Only one of these incentives, however, would have a fiscal impact on the State. Specialists with certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards are already eligible to receive State stipends, and therefore the bill has no impact on this incentive. The second incentive, salary signing bonuses, is for newly hired personnel. Library media specialists and reading specialists typically begin their careers as classroom teachers. Therefore, only a minimal number of salary signing bonuses would be awarded to specialists.

The bill's only significant impact would be for the third incentive, stipends for advanced certificated personnel working in challenge schools and reconstituted schools. In the 2001-2002 school year, there are a total of 179 challenge and reconstituted schools in the State. Assuming all of these schools have one reading specialist and 70% have a library media specialist, 304 specialists work in eligible schools. Nearly all reading specialists and library media specialists have advanced professional certification. Therefore, approximately 304 specialists would qualify for the \$2,000 stipend at a total cost of

\$608,000. It is assumed that this cost would remain relatively stable in future years as schools are added and removed from the challenge and reconstituted categories.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Department of Education, Department of Legislative Services

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