# TOPIC: approve policy REVISION on student eligibility for student educator stipends and educator test stipends per hb22-1220 & HB23-1001

**PREPARED BY:** SAM FOGLEMAN, INTERIM DIRECTOR OF EDUCATOR PREPARATION PATHWAYS

## SUMMARY

This item seeks approval of a revision to current Commission policy on candidate eligibility for funds for the Student Educator Stipend Program and the Educator Test Stipend Program created by House Bill 22-1220: *Concerning Removing Barriers in Educator Preparation to Support Educator Candidates Entering the Educator Workforce* and updated by House Bill 23-1001: *Expanding Assistance for Educator Programs.*

## BACKGROUND

This item is to approve a minor technical change in current CCHE policy, originally passed July 29, 2022, to accommodate the statutory provisions of HB23-1001. The two stipend programs created by House Bill 22-1220 address statewide teacher shortages and declining educator preparation program completion due in part to the financial burden incurred by teacher candidates. The Student Educator Stipend Program specifies that eligible candidates may receive up to $11,000 for a traditional 16-week student teaching clinical experience, while candidates completing a 32-week long clinical residency can receive up to $22,000.

HB23-1001 made an adjustment to the definition of an eligible student for this stipend program, raising the threshold from 200% of PELL eligibility to 300% for the 2022-23 and 2023-24 fiscal years. The Commission’s policy needs to be revised to accommodate this change.

## STAFF ANALYSIS

This item seeks a technical update to Commission policy so that it aligns with legislation.

## STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

**Staff recommend approval of proposed revisions to the CCHE policy regarding candidate eligibility for the Student Educator Stipend Program and the Educator Test Stipend Program created by House Bill 22-1220.**

## STATUTORY AUTHORITY

**§23-3.9-302. Student educator stipend program - created - guidelines - definition.**

(1)(a) THERE IS CREATED IN THE DEPARTMENT THE STUDENT EDUCATOR STIPEND PROGRAM, REFERRED TO IN THIS SECTION AS THE "STIPEND PROGRAM". THE PURPOSE OF THE STIPEND PROGRAM IS TO AWARD STIPEND MONEY TO AN ELIGIBLE STUDENT TO REDUCE THE FINANCIAL BARRIERS TO ENTERING THE EDUCATOR WORKFORCE WHILE THE STUDENT IS A STUDENT EDUCATOR.

(b) THE COMMISSION SHALL ADOPT ANY NECESSARY POLICIES AND THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT ANY NECESSARY GUIDELINES TO IMPLEMENT AND ADMINISTER THE STIPEND PROGRAM. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL COLLECT DATA TO MEASURE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE STIPEND PROGRAM...

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(2)(b)(I) NO LATER THAN AUGUST 1, 2022, AND NO LATER THAN AUGUST 1 EACH YEAR THEREAFTER, THE DEPARTMENT, SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS, SHALL DISBURSE TO EACH APPROVED PROGRAM OF PREPARATION MONEY TO DISTRIBUTE AS STIPEND MONEY TO EACH ELIGIBLE STUDENT, PLUS ADDITIONAL MONEY TO PAY THE DIRECT COSTS OF OPERATING THE STIPEND PROGRAM. THE APPROVED PROGRAM OF PREPARATION SHALL DISTRIBUTE STIPEND MONEY, USING THE STANDARD METHODS FOR ALLOCATING STATE-BASED FINANCIAL AID OR AS WAGES FOR EMPLOYMENT, TO EACH ELIGIBLE STUDENT IN MONTHLY INSTALLMENTS.

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**§23-3.9-303. Educator test stipend program - created - guidelines.**

(1)(a) THERE IS CREATED IN THE DEPARTMENT THE EDUCATOR TEST STIPEND PROGRAM, REFERRED TO IN THIS SECTION AS THE "STIPEND PROGRAM". THE PURPOSE OF THE STIPEND PROGRAM IS TO AWARD STIPEND MONEY TO AN APPROVED PROGRAM OF PREPARATION TO REDUCE FINANCIAL BARRIERS FOR ELIGIBLE STUDENTS BY PAYING THE FEES AND COSTS, WHICH MAY INCLUDE TRAVEL AND LODGING COSTS, ASSOCIATED WITH THE ASSESSMENT OF PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCIES REQUIRED FOR LICENSURE AND REQUIRED ENDORSEMENTS PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 22-60.5-203 AND 22-60.5-212.

(b)(I) THE COMMISSION SHALL ADOPT ANY NECESSARY POLICIES AND THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT ANY NECESSARY GUIDELINES TO IMPLEMENT AND ADMINISTER THE STIPEND PROGRAM.

(II) IN ITS ADOPTION OF ANY NECESSARY POLICIES PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (1)(b)(I) OF THIS SECTION, THE COMMISSION SHALL CREATE A FORMULA FOR CALCULATING THE AMOUNT OF STIPEND MONEY AWARDED TO EACH APPROVED PROGRAM OF PREPARATION BASED ON THE TOTAL NUMBER OF ELIGIBLE STUDENTS IN AN APPROVED PROGRAM OF PREPARATION AND THE AMOUNT REQUIRED TO PAY THE FEES AND COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE ASSESSMENT OF PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCIES FOR LICENSURE AND THE REQUIRED ENDORSEMENT FOR EACH ELIGIBLE STUDENT.

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(2)(a) TO QUALIFY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE STIPEND PROGRAM, A STUDENT MUST BE AN ELIGIBLE STUDENT. NO LATER THAN JULY 1, 2022, AND NO LATER THAN JULY 1 EACH YEAR THEREAFTER, EACH APPROVED PROGRAM OF PREPARATION SHALL NOTIFY THE DEPARTMENT OF THE NUMBER OF ELIGIBLE STUDENTS WHO QUALIFY FOR THE STIPEND PROGRAM.

(b)(I) NO LATER THAN AUGUST 1, 2022, AND NO LATER THAN AUGUST 1 EACH YEAR THEREAFTER, THE DEPARTMENT, SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS, SHALL DISBURSE TO EACH APPROVED PROGRAM OF PREPARATION STIPEND MONEY, PLUS ADDITIONAL MONEY TO PAY THE DIRECT COSTS OF OPERATING THE STIPEND PROGRAM. THE APPROVED PROGRAM OF PREPARATION SHALL DISTRIBUTE THE STIPEND MONEY TO EACH ELIGIBLE STUDENT TO PAY THE FEES AND COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE ASSESSMENT OF PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCIES FOR LICENSURE AND THE REQUIRED ENDORSEMENT.

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(3) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL ANNUALLY APPROPRIATE MONEY TO THE DEPARTMENT TO IMPLEMENT THIS SECTION, INCLUDING MONEY TO PAY THE COSTS INCURRED BY APPROVED PROGRAMS OF PREPARATION IN OPERATING THE STIPEND PROGRAM.

(4)(a) FOR THE 2022-23 STATE FISCAL YEAR, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL APPROPRIATE TO THE DEPARTMENT THREE MILLION DOLLARS FROM THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND RELIEF CASH FUND CREATED PURSUANT TO SECTION 24-75-228 TO FUND STIPENDS FOR ELIGIBLE STUDENTS.

(b) THE DEPARTMENT OR THE STIPEND RECIPIENT SHALL SPEND OR OBLIGATE ANY STIPEND MONEY RECEIVED PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (4) BY DECEMBER 30, 2024. ANY MONEY OBLIGATED BY DECEMBER 31, 2024, MUST BE EXPENDED BY DECEMBER 31, 2026.

(c) THE DEPARTMENT AND ANY PERSON WHO RECEIVED MONEY FROM THE DEPARTMENT, INCLUDING EACH STIPEND RECIPIENT, SHALL COMPLY WITH THE COMPLIANCE, REPORTING, RECORD-KEEPING, AND PROGRAM EVALUTION REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED BY THE OFFICE OF STATE PLANNING ANED BUDGETING AND THE STATE CONTROLLER IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 24-75-226(5).

(c.5) FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SUBSECTION (4) ONLY, THE COMMISSION SHALL APPROVE THE CRITERIA OF ELIGIBLE STUDENTS, INCLUDING:

(I) FIRST, CONSIDERATION FOR ELIGIBLE STUDENTS WHOSE EXPECTED FAMILY CONTRIBUTION DOES NOT EXCEED THREE HUNDRED PERCENT OF THE MAXIMUM FEDERAL PELL-ELIGIBLE EXPECTED FAMILY CONTRIBUTION; AND

(II) SECOND, CONSIDERATION FOR GRADUATES OF AN APPROVED PROGRAM OF PREPARATION WHO WERE PLACED AS STUDENT EDUCATORS BEFORE PASSING THE ASSESSMENT OF PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCIES IN STATE FISCAL YEARS 2019-20, 2020-21, AND 2021-22.