

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2025**

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HOUSE BILL 910

Short Title: DRIVE Recommendations/Teacher Diversity. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Hawkins, Baker, F. Jackson, and von Haefen (Primary Sponsors).

For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.

Referred to: Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

April 14, 2025

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO IMPLEMENT VARIOUS INITIATIVES AND PROGRAM EXPANSIONS TO PROMOTE TEACHER DIVERSITY AND INCREASE TEACHER RECRUITMENT, INCLUDING AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR'S DRIVE TASK FORCE REPORT, AND TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR THESE PURPOSES.

Whereas, a diverse educator workforce improves student elementary, secondary, and postsecondary outcomes and benefits every student; and

Whereas, developing a more representative educator workforce that mirrors the diversity of the student body in North Carolina requires incremental progress over time; and

Whereas, the teacher shortage in North Carolina necessitates innovative and specific programs, including 2+2 certification for educators, to put more teachers in the classroom, especially in special education and rural areas; and

Whereas, to solve the recruitment and retention problems in North Carolina and to provide every student with a well-trained and qualified educator, the State must promote teacher diversity from recommendations outlined in the report of the DRIVE Task Force; and

Whereas, the DRIVE Network is governed by an entity that was approved by the DRIVE Task Force that was established by the Governor after the scheduled end of the DRIVE Task Force on December 31, 2023, to continue the work of the DRIVE Task Force; Now, therefore,

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

PART I. ALTERNATIVE PATHWAYS/TEACHER RECRUITMENT MODELS

SECTION 1. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Public Instruction the sum of two million dollars (\$2,000,000) in recurring funds for the 2025-2026 fiscal year for research-based Grow-Your-Own and 2+2 programs in all regions of the State, including high school-based career academy programs, the North Carolina Teacher Cadet Program, Teaching as a Profession, and the TAs to Teachers and Troops to Teacher programs.

PART II. DEVELOPING A REPRESENTATIVE AND INCLUSIVE VISION FOR THE EDUCATION (DRIVE) GRANT PROGRAM

SECTION 2.(a) Purpose. – The State Board of Education, in consultation with the Office of the Governor, The University of North Carolina System Office, and the Community Colleges System Office, and the DRIVE Network shall establish a grant program to support



1 strategic partnerships committed to increasing the pipeline of educators of color across the State.
2 As an extension of the recommendations and strategies presented by the Governor's DRIVE Task
3 Force on January 1, 2021, the grants shall be provided to local school administrative units,
4 institutions of higher education, and community organizations to implement innovative
5 initiatives that support the recruitment, preparation, support, and retention of racially, ethnically,
6 and linguistically diverse educators. The purpose of this program shall be to do at least the
7 following:

- 8 (1) Increase the diversity of the educator workforce across the State through novel
9 recruitment efforts.
- 10 (2) Strengthen the pipeline of aspiring teachers of color across the State through
11 traditional and alternative certification pathways.
- 12 (3) Provide mechanisms to support and retain educators of color currently serving
13 in elementary and secondary public schools.
- 14 (4) Promote collaboration between school systems, institutions of higher
15 education, and community and nonprofit organizations to diversify the
16 educator workforce.

17 **SECTION 2.(b)** Applications. – Applicants for grants shall demonstrate at least the
18 following for grant award consideration:

- 19 (1) A partnership between at least two of the following entities: local school
20 administrative units, Historically Black Colleges and Universities,
21 Historically Minority-Serving Institutions, educator preparation programs,
22 alternative certification programs, public and private colleges and universities,
23 community colleges, and community or nonprofit organizations.
- 24 (2) Proposals for strategies that address one or more of the following components
25 of the educator development continuum as highlighted by the DRIVE Task
26 Force's 2021 Report to the Governor: recruitment, placement and induction,
27 and support and retention of educators of color.

28 **SECTION 2.(c)** Use of Funds. – Grant funds may be used for the following
29 activities:

- 30 (1) Strengthening existing high school dual enrollment programs to offer
31 education-based college credit or honors courses as streamlined pathways for
32 future careers in education.
- 33 (2) Implementing targeted school system-level and community-based recruitment
34 programs for aspiring educators of color interested in traditional and
35 alternative educator preparation programs.
- 36 (3) Utilizing and leveraging existing financial aid programs that include
37 scholarships, loan forgiveness, and tuition reimbursement that reduce the
38 disproportionate financial burden incurred by aspiring candidates of color.
- 39 (4) Increasing preparation and supporting preservice educators of color through
40 paid clinical learning experiences, with a commitment to teaching in North
41 Carolina public schools.
- 42 (5) Offering support for job placement and licensure for candidates of color after
43 completing their educator preparation program.
- 44 (6) Providing induction and mentoring programs that address the needs of
45 educators of color that include sustaining networking and professional
46 learning communities or affinity groups.
- 47 (7) Encouraging and financially supporting educators of color interested in
48 joining national professional organizations or attending national conferences.

49 **SECTION 2.(d)** Request for Proposal. – By October 1, 2025, the State Board of
50 Education shall issue a request for proposal (RFP) for the grant program. Applicants shall submit

1 their proposals by December 1, 2025. The RFP shall require that proposals include the following
2 information, at a minimum:

- 3 (1) Description of the proposal.
- 4 (2) Evidence-based research that supports the proposal.
- 5 (3) An implementation time line for the plan.
- 6 (4) Plans for financial sustainability once grant money is no longer available.

7 **SECTION 2.(e) Selection.** – By February 1, 2026, a selection committee shall select
8 up to five grantees, making the effort to ensure that there is representation across the State as
9 reflected by rural and urban districts, institutions of higher education, and community-based
10 partners. Any grants awarded may be spent over a five-year period from the initial award. Grants
11 may be awarded for new or existing projects.

12 **SECTION 2.(f) Reporting Requirements.** – No later than September 1 of each year,
13 grant recipients shall submit to the State Board of Education an annual report for the preceding
14 grant year that describes the implementation of the program. This report must include qualitative
15 and quantitative data to demonstrate program effectiveness.

16 **SECTION 2.(g) Evaluation and Reporting.** – Of the funds appropriated by this
17 section, the State Board of Education may use up to three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000)
18 to contract with the DRIVE Network, housed at the Public School Forum of North Carolina, Inc.,
19 to evaluate the impact of this grant program. The DRIVE Network shall report the results of this
20 evaluation to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee, the Fiscal Research Division,
21 and the Office of State Budget and Management by September 1, 2027. The State Board of
22 Education shall report annually on the implementation of this grant program beginning January
23 1, 2027.

24 **SECTION 2.(h) Appropriation.** – There is appropriated from the General Fund to
25 the Department of Public Instruction the sum of two million dollars (\$2,000,000) in recurring
26 funds for the 2025-2026 fiscal year to implement the grant program in accordance with this
27 section.

28 **SECTION 2.(i) Carryforward.** – Any unexpended funds at the end of each fiscal
29 year from the funds appropriated for the grant program under this section shall not revert to the
30 General Fund but shall remain available for expenditure for the purposes set forth in this section.

31 32 **PART III. RECRUITMENT BONUS PILOT PROGRAM FOR TEACHERS IN** 33 **LOW-WEALTH, LOW-PERFORMING, OR HIGH-NEEDS SCHOOLS**

34 **SECTION 3.(a) Purpose.** – The State Board of Education shall establish a grant
35 program to assist local school administrative units in providing multiyear recruitment bonuses to
36 certified teachers who commit to teach multiple years in a low-performing or high-needs school.
37 Bonuses awarded as part of this grant program shall include, but are not limited to, the following
38 components:

- 39 (1) Awards over multiple years with a requirement that teachers remain in the
40 school over multiple years to receive the bonus.
- 41 (2) Awards to licensed teachers who commit to teach in a school identified as
42 low-performing, as defined in G.S. 115C-105.37, a school identified as
43 continually low-performing as defined in G.S. 115C-105.37A, or a school
44 with an identified student percentage (ISP) of seventy-five percent (75%) or
45 greater as used in the National School Lunch Program for qualification for the
46 Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Program.

47 **SECTION 3.(b) Request for Proposal.** – By September 1, 2025, and annually
48 thereafter, the State Board of Education shall issue a request for proposal (RFP) for the grant
49 program. Local boards of education shall submit their proposals by December 1, 2025. The RFP
50 shall require that proposals include the following information, at a minimum:

- 1 (1) Description of the proposal, including details on targeted schools for the
- 2 bonuses and how the bonus program will be structured.
- 3 (2) Evidence-based research that supports the proposal.
- 4 (3) Implementation time line for the plan.
- 5 (4) Plans for financial sustainability once grant money is no longer available.

6 **SECTION 3.(c)** Grant Awards. – By February 15, 2026, the State Board of
7 Education shall review the proposals submitted by local boards of education and shall select up
8 to 10 local school administrative units for grant awards. The State Board of Education may make
9 grant awards for up to three years. A local school administrative unit may not receive more than
10 five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) in a single fiscal year from the grant program.

11 **SECTION 3.(d)** Evaluation and Reporting. – Of the funds appropriated by this
12 section, the State Board of Education may use up to three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000)
13 to contract with an independent research organization to evaluate the impact of this grant
14 program. The independent research organization shall report the results of this evaluation to the
15 Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee, the Fiscal Research Division, and the Office
16 of State Budget and Management by September 1, 2028. The Department of Public Instruction
17 shall report annually on the implementation of this grant program beginning March 1, 2026.

18 **SECTION 3.(e)** Appropriation. – There is appropriated from the General Fund to
19 the Department of Public Instruction the sum of fifteen million dollars (\$15,000,000) in recurring
20 funds for the 2025-2026 fiscal year to implement the grant program in accordance with this
21 section.

22 **SECTION 3.(f)** Carryforward. – Any unexpended funds appropriated under this
23 section at the end of the 2025-2026 fiscal year shall not revert to the General Fund but shall
24 remain available for the purposes set forth in this section.

25 **PART IV. TEACHER PREPARATION RESIDENCY PILOT GRANT PROGRAM**

26 **SECTION 4.(a)** Purpose. – The State Board of Education shall establish a grant
27 program to assist local school administrative units in the development of teacher preparation
28 residency pilot programs. Teacher preparation residency programs provide the necessary
29 preparation and induction supports to teacher preparation candidates pursuing a continuing
30 professional license. Teacher preparation residency programs eligible to receive grant funding
31 through this program shall include, at a minimum, the following components:

- 32 (1) Coursework in the candidate's area of licensure.
- 33 (2) Tuition and stipends.
- 34 (3) Faculty advising.
- 35 (4) Clinical training experiences.
- 36 (5) Ongoing induction support.

37 Residency programs eligible for this grant program may include partnerships between
38 local school administrative units, educator preparation programs, local community colleges or
39 universities, and other community organizations. Grant funds awarded to local school
40 administrative units under this program shall be matched by the local school administrative unit
41 on the basis of one dollar (\$1.00) in nongrant funds for every one dollar (\$1.00) in grant funds.

42 **SECTION 4.(b)** Request for Proposal. – By October 1, 2025, the State Board of
43 Education shall issue a request for proposal (RFP) for the grant program. Local boards of
44 education shall submit their proposals by January 15, 2026. The RFP shall require that proposals
45 include the following information, at a minimum:

- 46 (1) Description of the proposal, including the number of teacher preparation
- 47 candidates to be served.
- 48 (2) Evidence-based research that supports the proposal.
- 49 (3) Implementation time line for the plan.
- 50 (4) Plans for financial sustainability once grant money is no longer available.
- 51

1 **SECTION 4.(c)** Grant Awards. – By April 15, 2026, the State Board of Education
2 shall review the proposals submitted by local boards of education and shall select up to 10 local
3 school administrative units for grant awards. The State Board of Education may make grant
4 awards for up to three years. A local school administrative unit may not receive more than five
5 hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) in a single fiscal year from this grant program.

6 **SECTION 4.(d)** Evaluation and Reporting. – Of the funds appropriated by this
7 section, the State Board of Education may use up to three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000)
8 to contract with an independent research organization to evaluate the impact of this grant
9 program. The independent research organization shall report the results of this evaluation to the
10 Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee, the Fiscal Research Division, and the Office
11 of State Budget and Management by September 1, 2029. The Department of Public Instruction
12 shall report annually on the implementation of this grant program beginning March 1, 2027.

13 **SECTION 4.(e)** Appropriation. – There is appropriated from the General Fund to
14 the Department of Public Instruction the sum of fifteen million dollars (\$15,000,000) in recurring
15 funds for the 2025-2026 fiscal year to implement the grant program in accordance with this
16 section.

17 **SECTION 4.(f)** Carryforward. – Any unexpended funds appropriated under this
18 section at the end of the 2025-2026 fiscal year shall not revert to the General Fund but shall
19 remain available for the purposes set forth in this section.
20

21 **PART V. EXPANSION OF FELS PROGRAM/ENCOURAGE DIVERSITY**

22 **SECTION 5.1.** G.S. 116-209.45(e) reads as rewritten:

23 "(e) Eligibility for Loans. – The Authority shall establish the criteria for initial and
24 continuing eligibility to participate in the Program. All loan recipients shall be residents of North
25 Carolina and shall attend an eligible institution.

26 The Authority shall adopt standards deemed appropriate by the Authority to ensure that only
27 qualified, potential recipients receive a loan under the Program. The standards may include
28 minimum grade point average and satisfactory academic progress. The Authority shall include
29 individuals currently holding a bachelor's degree seeking preparation for teacher licensure as
30 potential recipients to receive a loan under the Program."

31 **SECTION 5.2.** G.S. 116-209.45(g) reads as rewritten:

32 "(g) Advisory Group. – The Authority shall appoint an advisory group composed of, at
33 minimum, appropriate representatives from higher education institutions and health and labor
34 departments, agencies, or commissions to make recommendations to the Authority regarding the
35 Authority's future apportionment and distribution of Program loans based on projected labor
36 market shortages, higher education enrollment projections, and other relevant information. The
37 Advisory Group shall also make recommendations to the Authority regarding strategies to
38 encourage participation in the Program for potential recipients of color, specifically among
39 individuals pursuing teacher licensure."
40

41 **PART VI. EXPAND NC TEACHING FELLOWS PROGRAM**

42 **SECTION 6.(a)** Part 3 of Article 23 of Chapter 116 of the General Statutes reads as
43 rewritten:

44 "Part 3. North Carolina Teaching Fellows Program.

45 **§ 116-209.60. Definitions.**

46 The following definitions apply in this Part:

- 47 (1) Commission. – The North Carolina Teaching Fellows Commission.
- 48 (2) Director. – The Director of the North Carolina Teaching Fellows Program.
- 49 (3) Forgivable loan. – A forgivable loan made under the Program.
- 50 (4) Program. – The North Carolina Teaching Fellows Program.

- 1 (5) Public school. – An elementary or secondary school located in North Carolina
- 2 that is governed by a local board of education, charter school board of
- 3 directors, regional school board of directors, or University of North Carolina
- 4 laboratory school board of trustees.
- 5 (5a) ~~Qualifying licensure area. – A teacher licensure area in one of the following~~
- 6 ~~subjects:~~
- 7 ~~a. Either of the following, as identified pursuant to G.S. 116-209.62(h):~~
- 8 ~~1. Special education.~~
- 9 ~~2. STEM.~~
- 10 ~~b. Elementary education (K-6).~~
- 11 (5b) Qualifying teacher. – A teacher in a North Carolina public school who meets
- 12 the following criteria:
- 13 a. Received a forgivable loan under the Program.
- 14 b. Graduated within 10 years from an educator preparation program
- 15 leading to teacher licensure, excluding any authorized deferment for
- 16 extenuating circumstances.
- 17 ~~c. Serves as a teacher in a qualifying licensure area.~~
- 18 (6) ~~STEM. – Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.~~
- 19 (7) Trust Fund. – The North Carolina Teaching Fellows Program Trust Fund.
- 20 ...

21 **"§ 116-209.62. North Carolina Teaching Fellows Program established; administration.**

22 (a) Program. – There is established the North Carolina Teaching Fellows Program to be
 23 administered by the System Office of The University of North Carolina, in conjunction with the
 24 Authority and the Commission. The purpose of the Program is to recruit, prepare, and support
 25 students residing in or attending institutions of higher education located in North Carolina for
 26 preparation as highly effective teachers ~~in qualifying licensure areas~~ in the State's public schools.
 27 The Program shall be used to provide a forgivable loan to individuals interested in preparing to
 28 teach in the public schools of the ~~State in qualifying licensure areas.~~State.

29 (b) Trust Fund. – There is established the North Carolina Teaching Fellows Program
 30 Trust Fund to be administered by the Authority, in conjunction with the System Office of The
 31 University of North Carolina. All funds (i) appropriated to, or otherwise received by, the Program
 32 for forgivable loans and other Program purposes, (ii) received as repayment of forgivable loans,
 33 and (iii) earned as interest on these funds shall be placed in the Trust Fund. The purpose of the
 34 Trust Fund is to provide financial assistance to qualified students for completion of teacher
 35 education and licensure programs to ~~fill qualifying licensure areas~~ teach in the public schools of
 36 the State.

37 ...

38 (d) Director of the Program. – The Board of Governors of The University of North
 39 Carolina shall appoint a Director of the Program. The Director shall appoint staff to the
 40 Commission and shall be responsible for recruitment and coordination of the Program, including
 41 proactive, aggressive, and strategic recruitment of potential recipients. Efforts shall include
 42 identifying and encouraging students of color and students who may not otherwise consider a
 43 career in teaching to enter the Program. Recruitment activities shall include a broad-based
 44 strategy (i) targeting regions of the State with the highest teacher attrition rates and teacher
 45 recruitment ~~challenges,~~ challenges and (ii) actively engaging with educators, business leaders,
 46 experts in human resources, elected officials, and other community leaders throughout the ~~State,~~
 47 ~~and (iii) attracting candidates in qualifying licensure areas to the Program.~~ State to attract a
 48 diverse pool of applicants. The Director shall report to the President of The University of North
 49 Carolina. The Authority shall provide office space and clerical support staff, as necessary, to the
 50 Director for the Program.

1 (e) Student Selection Criteria for Forgivable Loans. – The Commission shall adopt
2 stringent standards for awarding forgivable loans based on multiple measures to ensure that only
3 the strongest applicants receive them, including the following:

- 4 (1) Grade point averages.
- 5 (2) Performance on relevant career and college readiness assessments.
- 6 (3) Experience, accomplishments, and other criteria demonstrating qualities
7 positively correlated with highly effective teachers, including excellent verbal
8 and communication skills.
- 9 (4) Demonstrated commitment to serve in a ~~qualifying licensure area in~~ North
10 Carolina public schools.

11 (f) Program Selection Criteria. – The Authority shall administer the Program in
12 cooperation with ~~up to 10 any~~ institutions of higher education with ~~approved a State Board of~~
13 ~~Education-approved~~ educator preparation ~~programs-program~~ selected by the Commission that
14 represent a diverse selection of both postsecondary constituent institutions of The University of
15 North Carolina and private postsecondary institutions operating in the State. ~~The Commission~~
16 ~~shall adopt stringent standards for selection of the most effective educator preparation programs,~~
17 ~~including the following:~~

- 18 (1) ~~Demonstrates high rates of educator effectiveness on value added models and~~
19 ~~teacher evaluations, including using performance-based, subject-specific~~
20 ~~assessment and support systems, such as edTPA or other metrics of evaluating~~
21 ~~candidate effectiveness that have predictive validity.~~
- 22 (2) ~~Demonstrates measurable impact of prior graduates on student learning,~~
23 ~~including impact of graduates teaching in qualifying licensure areas.~~
- 24 (3) ~~Demonstrates high rates of graduates passing exams required for teacher~~
25 ~~licensure.~~
- 26 (4) ~~Provides curricular and co-curricular enhancements in leadership, facilitates~~
27 ~~learning for diverse learners, and promotes community engagement,~~
28 ~~classroom management, and reflection and assessment.~~
- 29 (5) ~~Requires at least a minor concentration of study in the subject area that the~~
30 ~~candidate may teach.~~
- 31 (6) ~~Provides early and frequent internship or practical experiences, including the~~
32 ~~opportunity for participants to perform practicums in diverse school~~
33 ~~environments.~~
- 34 (7) ~~Is approved by the State Board of Education as an educator preparation~~
35 ~~program.~~
- 36 (8) ~~For an educator preparation program enrolling loan recipients in a program of~~
37 ~~study leading to licensure in elementary education (K-6), provides training~~
38 ~~that is aligned with the Science of Reading in accordance with~~
39 ~~G.S. 115C-269.20. The Commission shall contract with a third-party entity to~~
40 ~~biennially evaluate whether a program identified in this subdivision is~~
41 ~~providing training that is aligned with the Science of Reading.~~

42 (g) Awards of Forgivable Loans. – The Program shall provide forgivable loans to selected
43 students to be used at ~~up to 10~~ selected institutions for completion of a program leading to initial
44 teacher licensure as follows:

- 45 (1) North Carolina high school seniors. – Forgivable loans of up to ~~five thousand~~
46 ~~dollars (\$5,000) per semester for up to eight semesters~~ ten thousand dollars
47 (\$10,000) per academic year for up to four academic years.
- 48 (2) Students applying for transfer to a selected educator preparation program at
49 an institution of higher education. – Forgivable loans of up to ~~five thousand~~
50 ~~dollars (\$5,000) per semester for up to six semesters~~ ten thousand dollars
51 (\$10,000) per academic year for up to four academic years.

- 1 (3) Individuals currently holding a bachelor's degree seeking preparation for
2 teacher licensure. – Forgivable loans of up to ~~five thousand dollars (\$5,000)~~
3 ~~per semester for up to four semesters~~ ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) per
4 academic year for up to two academic years.
- 5 (4) Students matriculating at institutions of higher education who are changing to
6 an approved program of study at a selected educator preparation program. –
7 Forgivable loans of up to ~~five thousand dollars (\$5,000) per semester for up~~
8 ~~to four semesters~~ ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) per academic year for up to
9 four academic years.

10 Forgivable loans may be used for tuition, fees, the cost of books, and expenses related to
11 obtaining licensure.

12 ~~(h) Identification of STEM and Special Education Licensure Areas. – The Superintendent~~
13 ~~of Public Instruction shall identify and provide to the Commission and the Authority a list of~~
14 ~~STEM and special education licensure areas and shall annually provide to the Commission the~~
15 ~~number of available positions in each qualifying licensure area relative to the number of current~~
16 ~~and anticipated teachers in that area of licensure. The Commission shall make the list of STEM~~
17 ~~and special education licensure areas readily available to applicants.~~

18 (i) Administration of Forgivable Loan Awards. – Upon the naming of recipients of the
19 forgivable loans by the Commission, the Commission shall transfer to the Authority its decisions.
20 The Authority, in coordination with the Director, shall perform all of the administrative functions
21 necessary to implement this Part, which functions shall include rule making, disseminating
22 information, acting as a liaison with participating institutions of higher education, implementing
23 forgivable loan agreements, loan monitoring, loan cancelling through service and collection,
24 determining the acceptability of service repayment agreements, enforcing the agreements, and
25 all other functions necessary for the execution, payment, and enforcement of promissory notes
26 required under this Part.

27 (j) Annual Report. – The Commission, in coordination with the Authority, the
28 Department of Public Instruction, and the selected educator education programs participating in
29 the Program shall report no later than January 1, 2019, and annually thereafter, to the Joint
30 Legislative Education Oversight Committee regarding the following:

- 31 (1) Forgivable loans awarded from the Trust Fund, including the following:
32 a. Demographic information regarding recipients.
33 b. Number of recipients by institution of higher education and program.
34 c. Information on number of recipients by anticipated ~~qualifying~~
35 ~~licensure area.~~
- 36 (2) Placement and repayment rates, including the following:
37 a. Number of graduates who have been employed ~~in a qualifying~~
38 ~~licensure area~~ within two years of program completion.
39 b. Number of graduates who accepted employment at a low-performing
40 school identified under G.S. 115C-105.37 as part of their years of
41 service.
42 c. Number of graduates who have elected to do loan repayment and their
43 years of service, if any, prior to beginning loan repayment.
44 d. Number of graduates ~~employed in a qualifying licensure area~~ who
45 have received an overall rating of at least accomplished and have met
46 expected growth on applicable standards of the teacher evaluation
47 instrument.
48 e. Aggregate information on student growth and proficiency in courses
49 taught by graduates who have fulfilled service requirements through
50 ~~employment in a qualifying licensure area~~ employment.

51"

1 **SECTION 6.(b)** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the North Carolina
2 Teaching Fellows Program Trust Fund the sum of five million seven hundred thousand dollars
3 (\$5,700,000) in recurring funds for the 2025-2026 fiscal year to support an additional 490 teacher
4 licensure candidates.

5 **SECTION 6.(c)** Subsection (a) of this section applies to applications for the award
6 of funds beginning in the 2025-2026 academic year.

7
8 **PART VII. PEPSC/EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAM REPORTING CHANGES**

9 **SECTION 7.1.** G.S. 115C-269.35(b) is amended by adding a new subdivision to
10 read:

11 "(12a) The percentage of students of color enrolling in and completing the program.
12 For the purposes of this subsection, a student of color means a student
13 identifying as Hispanic, African American, Asian, American Indian, Native
14 Hawaiian, or of two or more races."

15 **SECTION 7.2.** G.S. 115C-269.50 reads as rewritten:

16 **"§ 115C-269.50. EPP report cards; report on diversity.**

17 (a) EPP Report Card. – The State Board shall create an annual report card for each EPP
18 that, at a minimum, summarizes the information collected in the annual performance reports, as
19 set forth in G.S. 115C-269.35(b). The report cards shall provide user-friendly access to the
20 public, and shall provide the ability to easily compare annual report card information between
21 EPPs, including performance and other data reported by each EPP, as provided in
22 G.S. 115C-269.35(b). The State Board shall make the report cards available to the public through
23 the State Board's Internet Web site on an annual basis beginning December 15, 2019, and shall
24 submit the report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee annually by that date.

25 (b) Annual Report on Diversity. – Each educator preparation program shall report to the
26 State Board the following information on an annual basis regarding the diversity of identified
27 persons disaggregated by the following diversity categories: race, sex, ethnicity, age, and
28 disability status:

29 (1) Total number of identified persons.

30 (2) Retention rates of identified persons who are employees of the program.

31 (3) The number of students who complete the program, the number of graduates
32 licensed in North Carolina, and the number of graduates employed in a public
33 school unit.

34 (4) Qualitative data from identified persons on the diversity of the program,
35 including applicable information on recruitment, educator preparation,
36 retention, mobility, and turnover.

37 (5) Recommendations from the program to improve diversity of identified
38 persons, including strategies to recruit and retain a diverse pool of identified
39 persons.

40 (c) Beginning June 15, 2026, and every June 15 thereafter, the State Board shall collect
41 the information from the annual report from the educator preparation programs under subsection
42 (b) of this section and report the results to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee,
43 disaggregated by diversity category:

44 (1) Statewide data for each educator preparation program.

45 (2) Recommendations from the State Board to improve diversity among
46 identified persons in programs, including strategies to recruit and retain a
47 diverse pool of identified persons."

48
49 **PART VIII. ELIMINATE MINIMUM TESTING REQUIREMENTS FOR EDUCATOR**
50 **PREPARATION PROGRAM ADMISSION**

51 **SECTION 8.(a)** G.S. 115C-269.15(a) is repealed.

1 **SECTION 8.(b)** This section applies beginning with applications for admission to
2 an EPP in the 2025-2026 academic year.

3

4 **PART IX. EFFECTIVE DATE**

5 **SECTION 9.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2025.