



## AB 1623 – Golden State Teacher Grant Program

Introduced by Assembly Members Robert Rivas and Patrick O'Donnell

### SUMMARY

This bill establishes the Golden State Teacher Grant Program. Under this program, the California Student Aid Commission will award one-time grant funds of \$20,000 to students in educator preparation programs with their commitment to teach in a subject area impacted by the teacher shortage. The student must commit to teach for four years in the high-need subject area after the student receives their teaching credential. The subject areas are: Bilingual Education, Special Education, Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM).

### BACKGROUND

School districts across California are experiencing a serious shortage of qualified teachers. Increased demand for K–12 teachers in California comes at a time when the supply of new teachers hovers at a 12-year low and the number of new credentials issued has dropped by close to 50% during that period.

The California Commission on Teacher Credentialing's November 2018 report titled, "Assignment Monitoring of Certificated Staff in California," found the following when comparing 2015-16 and 2016-17 data for schools ranked in the bottom three deciles statewide (2012 base API):

- 30 percent of all misassignments were in Special Education.
- 74 percent increase (2yr) in misassignments for teachers of English learners.
- 30 percent increase (2yr) in Teacher Vacancies.

About 2/3 of new, California-prepared special education teachers are on substandard credentials. In math, the number of fully-prepared candidates with preliminary credentials has decreased by 50% in six years. In science, almost 1,000 substandard credentials were issued in 2016-17, more than double the number issued in 2011-12.

Over the past five years, we've seen an almost five-fold increase in the number of short-term staff and provisional internship permits issued (STSP and PIP), from 1,164 in 2013-14 to 5,886 in 2017-18. During the same time frame, the number of Variable Term Waivers—used when employers cannot find a fully-qualified credentialed teacher—has almost doubled.

In addition, the passage of Proposition 58 in 2016, coupled with the adoption of the English Learner Roadmap policy in 2017, has further increased the demand for bilingual teachers. In 2016-17, California issued just over 800 bilingual authorizations, less than half of the 1,800 authorizations in 1994-95 when the number peaked, and still far below the average of 1,200 per year between 2003-04 and 2009-10. The shortage of bilingual teachers leaves most districts unable to fulfill families' and their community's demand for bilingual programs.

### SOLUTION

This bill establishes the Golden State Teacher Grant Program to provide service scholarships through the Student Aid Commission to provide a financial incentive to attract highly qualified teachers to teach in subject areas experiencing the greatest teacher shortages. The bill would require a grant recipient to agree to repay the grant if they do not teach in a high-need field for four years upon completion of their preliminary teaching credential.

### SUPPORT

The Education Trust – West (Sponsor)  
Public Advocates Inc. (Sponsor)  
Abriendo Puertas/Opening Doors  
Black Parallel School Board  
Cafe De Calif, Chicano Latino State Employees Assn  
California Association for Bilingual Education  
California Catholic Conference  
California Latino School Boards Association  
California School Boards Association  
California Teachers Association

**SUPPORT – CONT.**

Californians Together  
Canal Alliance  
City of Oakland  
Compton Unified School District  
Congregations Organized for Prophetic Engagement  
Educate 78  
Equal Justice Society  
Fresno Unified School District  
GO Public Schools  
Inland Empire Immigrant Youth Collective  
Jr. Leagues of CA State Public Affairs Com (CalSPAC)  
Kapor Center  
Kid City Hope Place  
La Comadre  
Latino and Latina Roundtable of the San Gabriel and  
Pomona Valley  
Mission Graduates  
Partnership for Los Angeles Schools  
Riverside County & K-12 District Superintendents  
Roberts Family Development Center  
Stockton Scholars  
Stockton Schools Initiative  
Teach Plus  
The Opportunity Institute  
Torrance Unified School District  
Univ. of CA Chicax Latinx Alumni Assn.

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