

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5821

As of July 18, 2019

Title: An act relating to providing equitable bonuses to K-12 instructional staff who attain national certification through professional organizations.

Brief Description: Providing equitable bonuses to K-12 instructional staff who attain national certification through professional organizations.

Sponsors: Senators Das, Wellman, Palumbo, Hunt, Nguyen, Saldaña, Randall, Liias, Amblin and Wilson, C..

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Early Learning & K-12 Education: 7/25/19.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Expands the eligibility requirements of the current teacher financial bonus for attaining and maintaining a national certification to include school staff from other discipline areas.
- Expands the eligibility requirements of the supplemental teacher financial bonus for attaining and maintaining a national certification while working in a high-poverty school to include school staff from other discipline areas.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON EARLY LEARNING & K-12 EDUCATION

Staff: Alanna Williams (786-7431)

Background: Current Bonus Structure. Washington State currently offers financial bonuses for K-12 certified instructional staff who attain national certification with the national board for professional teaching standards. Teachers who hold the national certification and work in a high poverty school receive an additional bonus up to \$5,000. The specific amount is determined by the teacher's percentage of time spent at the school.

Staff Eligibility. Schools in Washington also employ staff who work closely with students, but are not eligible for the bonus as their national certification occurs in other discipline areas. These staff members include occupational therapists, physical therapists, speech

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

language pathologists, audiologists, school nurses, school social workers, and school psychologists. While these staff are not eligible for the national board for professional teaching standards certification, they may be eligible for national certification in their respective fields.

Summary of Bill: Eligibility requirements are expanded for an annual bonus for those who attain and maintain a national certification in their field. Eligibility requirements of the bonus would include occupational therapists, physical therapists, speech language pathologists, audiologists, school nurses, school social workers, and school psychologists who maintain national certification in their respective field. These staff members would receive an annual bonus that equals the current bonus amount for those who hold a valid certificate from the national board for professional teaching standards. They are also eligible to receive the supplemental bonus for working in a high-poverty school according to the current bonus structure.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on July 18, 2019.

Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.