

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 FIRST REGULAR SESSION
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 1581

7 H.P. 1088

House of Representatives, May 24, 1985

8 Reported by Representative Chonko for a Minority from the Special
9 Commission to Study the Implementation of Educational Reform pursuant to
10 the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 13510 and printed pursuant to
Joint Rule 18.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

11
12 STATE OF MAINE
13

14 IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
15 NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-FIVE
16

17 AN ACT to Implement Recognition Grants for
18 Teachers, Establish a Minimum Salary
19 for Teachers and Provide Money for
20 School Administrative Units to Operate
21 Preschool Programs for Handicapped
22 Children.
23

24 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as
25 follows:

26 Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §§13403 and 13404 are enacted
27 to read:

28 §13403. Minimum salaries for 1986-87

29 1. Minimum salaries. Each school administrative
30 unit shall establish a minimum starting salary of
31 \$14,500 for a certified teacher with a bachelor's de-
32 gree for the school year starting July 1, 1986.

33 2. State funds; nonlapsing fund. Each school
34 unit is eligible to receive a block grant equal to

1 the aggregate amount of educator recognition grants
2 paid to the unit's educators in August 1986. If a
3 school unit does not expend the total block grant to
4 increase educator salaries above 105% of 1985-86 sal-
5 ary levels, the unallocated portion of the block
6 grant shall be returned to the State and placed in a
7 nonlapsing account. The State shall use these funds
8 first to aid school administrative units whose block
9 grants are too small to reach the minimum salary lev-
10 els required to fund these salaries.

11 §13404. Minimum salaries for 1987-88

12 1. Minimum salaries. Each school administrative
13 unit shall establish a minimum starting salary of
14 \$16,000 for a certified teacher with a bachelor's de-
15 gree for the school year starting July 1, 1987.

16 2. State funds. Each school unit is eligible to
17 receive a block grant equal to twice the aggregate
18 amount of the educator recognition grants paid to the
19 unit's educators in August 1986, plus a prorated
20 share of the nonlapsing fund created in section
21 13403, subsection 2. If a school unit does not ex-
22 pend the total block grant to increase educator sala-
23 ries above 105% of 1986-87 salary levels, the unallo-
24 cated portion may be used to implement educator rec-
25 ognition plans approved by the commissioner for any
26 of the following:

27 A. Master teacher plans;

28 B. Career ladders;

29 C. Instructional staff development;

30 D. Paraprofessionals for noninstructional du-
31 ties;

32 E. Longer school year for teachers; and

33 F. Other areas for educator recognition as de-
34 termined by the local unit.

35 3. Maintenance of effort. The superintendent
36 must certify in the education recognition plan that
37 the school unit has maintained its level of funding
38 at 1986-87 levels plus 5%.

1 4. Public participation in educator recognition
2 plan. Education recognition plans in subsection 3
3 shall be based upon public participation including
4 teachers, administrators, school board members and
5 the public.

6 Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §13502, sub-§2, as enacted by
7 PL 1983, c. 859, Pt. J, §§2 and 7, is amended to
8 read:

9 2. Teacher. "Teacher" means a person certified
10 by the Department of Educational and Cultural Ser-
11 vices who is an employee of a public school, an eli-
12 gible private school or a state operated school in-
13 cluding elementary and secondary teacher, specialized
14 subject teacher, vocational-industrial teacher as de-
15 fined in the certification rules of the State Board
16 of Education. "Teacher" includes, by position title,
17 only the following:

- 18 A. Classroom teacher;
- 19 B. Itinerant teacher;
- 20 C. Guidance counselor;
- 21 D. Librarian-media specialist;
- 22 E. Special education teacher;
- 23 F. Special teacher of reading; and
- 24 G. Speech clinician-teacher.

25 Grant recipients shall not include persons providing
26 contract services to a school administrative unit or
27 units. All teachers on approved sabbatical leave who
28 are expected to resume their position in a local
29 school unit shall be included as recipients of these
30 grants. Substitute teachers employed less than a
31 full recognition grant period shall not be eligible
32 for those grants.

33 Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §13502, sub-§3 is enacted to
34 read:

1 3. Recognition grant period. "Recognition grant
2 period" means the fall or spring half of a school
3 year as defined by the commissioner.

4 Sec. 4. 20-A MRSa §§13503 and 13505, as enacted
5 by PL 1983, c. 859, Pt. J, §§2 and 7, are amended to
6 read:

7 §13503. Teacher recognition grants

8 Teacher recognition grants of up to \$1,000 shall
9 be awarded twice during the school year once during
10 each of 2 recognition grant periods to only those
11 teachers who have been employed full time in qualify-
12 ing schools since the first day of each corresponding
13 semester. Teachers employed less than full time or
14 less than a full semester, as determined by the qual-
15 ifying school, shall not receive a prorated grant
16 amount.

17 The grants will be prorated to persons whose assign-
18 ments are less than full time or who job-share a sin-
19 gle position. No individual teacher may receive more
20 than 100% of a grant in any recognition grant period.

21 §13505. Local filing; certification

22 Qualifying schools Superintendents of school
23 units shall file with the commissioner a certified
24 list of teachers eligible to receive grants under
25 this chapter, including their names, mailing ad-
26 resses, social security numbers, income tax with-
27 holding status and current salary. Filing informa-
28 tion shall be submitted on or before January 15th for
29 the February 15th schedule of payment; the filing for
30 the August 15th schedule of payment shall be submit-
31 ted on or before July 15th.

32 Sec. 5. 20-A MRSa §13506, sub-§§1-A and 2-A are
33 enacted to read:

34 1-A. Determination of grant amount. The Commis-
35 sioner of Education shall review this list of eligi-
36 ble recipients and determine the amount of each grant
37 by dividing the total number of full-time equivalent
38 educator positions into the budget allotments as rec-
39 ommended in Public Law 1983, chapter 859, minus the
40 cost of the review panel in subsection 2-A.

1 2-A. Appeal. Teachers may appeal the assigned
2 teacher recognition grant in writing to a grant re-
3 view panel or panels by March 15, 1986, for the grant
4 assigned February 15th and by September 15th for the
5 August 15th grant. The panel or panels shall be com-
6 posed of one representative of teachers, one repre-
7 sentative of school management and one member of the
8 public. The panel or panels shall be established by
9 the commissioner.

10 Sec. 6. 20-A MRSA §15602, sub-§1, as enacted by
11 PL 1983, c. 859, Pt. G, §2, is amended to read:

12 1. Contributions from General Fund. It is the
13 intent of the Legislature to provide at least 55% of
14 the cost of the total allocation from General Fund
15 revenue sources or a percentage no less than that
16 provided in the year prior to the year of allocation,
17 whichever is greater.

18 In computing the percentage state share under this
19 section for the fiscal year 1988-89 and the fiscal
20 year 1989-90, the State's share shall be adjusted by
21 adding the block grant costs under sections 13403 and
22 13404 to the state share. The resulting increase in
23 the State's percentage share shall be used to estab-
24 lish the new minimum state share in fiscal year
25 1990-91 and the subsequent years.

26 Sec. 7. Appropriation. The following funds are
27 appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the
28 purposes of this Act.

	<u>1985-86</u>	<u>1986-87</u>
29		
30	<u>EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL</u>	
31	<u>SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF</u>	
32	Teacher Recognition	
33	Grants	
34	All Other	(\$350,000) (\$300,000)
35	General Purpose Aid	
36	for Local Schools	
37	All Other	350,000

1 Provides funds for
2 preschool programs
3 for handicapped stu-
4 dents run by school
5 administrative units.

6 General Purpose Aid
7 for Local Schools

8 All Other 300,000

9 Provides funds for
10 preschool programs
11 for handicapped stu-
12 dents as part of spe-
13 cial education ser-
14 vices.

15 STATEMENT OF FACT

16 This bill is a minority report of the Commission
17 to Study the Implementation of Educational Reform.

18 Section 1 of the bill establishes minimum sala-
19 ries for teachers for 1986-87 of \$14,500 and for
20 1987-88 of \$16,000. The State will help pay for
21 these minimum salaries by giving the money allocated
22 for teacher recognition grants as block grants to
23 school units on the same per teacher ratio as used in
24 distributing teacher recognition grants in 1985-86.
25 The block grant money not used to enhance teacher
26 salaries in 1986-87 will revert to a nonlapsing,
27 state account to be distributed in 1987-88. The
28 grant money, including the nonlapsing account money
29 from the previous year, not spent on enhancing teach-
30 er salaries in 1987-88 may be used to implement local
31 teacher recognition plans. These plans may include
32 funding master teacher plans, career ladders, in-
33 structional staff development, paraprofessionals for
34 noninstructional duties, longer school year for
35 teachers and other areas for educator recognition.
36 In both 1986-87 and 1987-88, school units must raise
37 educator salaries by 5% before they can use the block
38 grant money to fund increased teacher salaries. It
39 is not the intent that this section will cause any
40 financial hardship to individual units to come up to
41 the minimum salaries. Adjustments in certain units'
42 state subsidy may be necessary to prevent certain

1 units from experiencing a large increase in local ex-
2 penditures for salaries.

3 Sections 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 amend the laws govern-
4 ing teacher recognition grants by restricting the
5 definition of "teacher" to "teachers" and eliminates
6 those professionals not directly responsible for
7 classroom instruction. At the same time, it does ex-
8 tend the definition for those positions included to
9 include "teachers" who job share, are part-time, are
10 on sabbatical leave or are teaching administrators.
11 In these latter cases, the grants would be prorated
12 to include only the portion of time they were working
13 in the areas designated under the definition of
14 teacher. The restriction of the teacher recognition
15 grants to classroom "teachers" would reduce the cost
16 of the program.

17 Section 7 appropriates money to fund preschool
18 programs for preschool handicapped students operated
19 by school administrative units. The cost savings in
20 section 1 would be used to fund this appropriation.

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