

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 1314

S.P. 532

In Senate, March 23, 2023

**An Act to Establish a Minimum Salary for Educational Specialists,
Educational Technicians and School Teaching Professionals**

Reference to the Committee on Labor and Housing suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator LIBBY of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Representative SAMPSON of Alfred and
Senators: RAFFERTY of York, STEWART of Aroostook, Representative: BRENNAN of
Portland.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §4015** is enacted to read:

3 **§4015. Minimum salaries for educational specialists, educational technicians and**
4 **school teaching professionals**

5 **1. Definitions.** As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the
6 following terms have the following meanings.

7 A. "Educational specialist" has the same meaning as in section 13001-A, subsection
8 7.

9 B. "Educational technician" has the same meaning as in section 13001-A, subsection
10 8.

11 C. "School teaching professional" means a person who provides professional services
12 to a school who is not an educational specialist; an educational technician; an
13 administrator, as defined in section 13001-A, subsection 1; or a certified teacher or
14 career and technical education teacher subject to the minimum salary requirement
15 pursuant to section 13407.

16 **2. Minimum salary.** For the school year starting after June 30, 2024, and for each
17 subsequent school year, the minimum salary for educational specialists, educational
18 technicians and school teaching professionals is equal to 200% of the minimum hourly
19 wage established in Title 26, section 664, subsection 1.

20 **3. List of educational specialists, educational technicians and school teaching**
21 **professionals.** A school administrative unit shall provide to the department annually on or
22 before October 1st the number of educational specialists, educational technicians and
23 school teaching professionals eligible for incremental salary increases as defined in section
24 15689, subsection 7-A, paragraph A.

25 **Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §15689, sub-§7-A,** as amended by PL 2021, c. 441, §2, is
26 further amended to read:

27 **7-A. Adjustment for minimum teacher salary, educational specialists,**
28 **educational technicians and school teaching professionals.** Beginning in fiscal year
29 2020-21, the commissioner shall, in accordance with this subsection, increase the state
30 share of the total allocation to a qualifying school administrative unit by an amount
31 necessary to achieve the minimum salary for certified teachers and career and technical
32 education teachers established in section 13407. Beginning in fiscal year 2024-25, the
33 commissioner shall, in accordance with this subsection, increase the state share of the total
34 allocation to a qualifying school administrative unit by an amount necessary to achieve the
35 minimum salary for educational specialists, educational technicians and school teaching
36 professionals established in section 4015.

37 A. As used in this subsection, unless the context otherwise indicates, "qualifying
38 school administrative unit" means a school administrative unit that the commissioner
39 determines to have a locally established salary schedule with a minimum teacher salary
40 of less than \$40,000 in school year 2019-2020 or with a minimum salary of less than
41 200% of the minimum hourly wage established in Title 26, section 664, subsection 1
42 for educational specialists, educational technicians and school teaching professionals
43 in school year 2023-2024. As used in this subsection, unless the context otherwise

1 indicates, "incremental salary increases" means the incremental increases in the salaries
2 of certified teachers and career and technical education teachers employed by a
3 qualifying school administrative unit in school year 2019-2020 necessary to meet the
4 minimum salary requirements of section 13407 from fiscal year 2020-21 to fiscal year
5 2022-23 and, for educational specialists, educational technicians and school teaching
6 professionals, the incremental increases in the salaries of educational specialists,
7 educational technicians and school teaching professionals employed by a qualifying
8 school administrative unit in school year 2023-2024 necessary to meet the minimum
9 salary requirements of section 4015, subsection 2 from school year 2024-2025 to 2025-
10 2026. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the terms
11 "educational specialist," "educational technician" and "school teaching professional"
12 have the same meaning as in section 4015, subsection 1, paragraphs A, B and C,
13 respectively.

14 B. The commissioner shall allocate the funds appropriated by the Legislature in
15 accordance with the following.

16 (1) The amount of increased funds provided to qualifying school administrative
17 units under this subsection must be the amount necessary to fund the incremental
18 salary increases specified in this subsection.

19 (2) The number of certified teachers and career and technical education teachers
20 eligible for incremental salary increases in a qualifying school administrative unit
21 for a fiscal year must be based on the information supplied to the department
22 pursuant to section 13407 in that fiscal year. The number of educational
23 specialists, educational technicians and school teaching professionals eligible for
24 incremental salary increases in a qualifying school administrative unit for a fiscal
25 year must be based on the information supplied to the department pursuant to
26 section 4015, subsection 3 in that fiscal year.

27 (3) The increased funds provided under this subsection must be issued to
28 qualifying school administrative units as an adjustment to the state school subsidy
29 for distribution to the certified teachers ~~and~~, career and technical education
30 teachers and educational specialists, educational technicians and school teaching
31 professionals. Qualifying school administrative units shall use the payments
32 provided under this subsection to provide salary adjustments to those certified
33 teachers ~~and~~, career and technical education teachers and educational specialists,
34 educational technicians and school teaching professionals eligible for incremental
35 salary increases. The department shall collect the necessary data to allow the funds
36 to be included in a qualifying school administrative unit's monthly subsidy
37 payments beginning no later than February 1st of each fiscal year.

38 (4) Funding for incremental salary increases in fiscal year 2020-21 must be based
39 on data submitted to the department and certified by school administrative units as
40 of October 1, 2019.

41 (5) Funding for incremental salary increases for educational specialists,
42 educational technicians and school teaching professionals in fiscal year 2024-25
43 must be based on data submitted to the department and certified by school
44 administrative units as of October 1, 2023.

SUMMARY

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This bill establishes, starting with the school years after June 30, 2024, a minimum hourly wage for educational specialists, educational technicians and other school teaching professionals equal to 200% of the state minimum hourly wage. As with the adjustment for minimum teacher salaries, this bill requires the Commissioner of Education, based on a list provided annually by each school administrative unit, to allocate funds provided by the Legislature to each school administrative unit necessary to fund the incremental salary increases.