

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

Updates a statutory teacher mentorship program and integrates it into other statutory programs on teacher development and evaluation and staff development. Provides for a teacher mentor stipend. Directs the Board of Teaching to develop a model teacher mentorship program that school districts may use in whole or in part to provide mentorship programs to teachers new to the profession or district and other teachers. Allows an income tax subtraction for mentor stipends.

Section

- 1 Development, evaluation, and peer coaching for continuing contract teachers. (b)**
Amends a reference to mentoring by adding a cross reference to the statutory teacher mentorship program.
Makes this section effective for the 2015-2016 school year.
- 2 Development, evaluation, and peer coaching for continuing contract teachers. (b)**
Amends a reference to mentoring by adding a cross reference to the statutory teacher mentorship program.
Makes this section effective for the 2015-2016 school year.
- 3 Effective staff development activities. (a)** Amends a reference to opportunities for teacher-to-teacher mentoring in the list of staff development activities by adding a cross reference to the statutory teacher mentorship program and allowing a teacher mentor stipend of up to \$500.
Makes this section effective for the 2015-2016 school year.

Section

4 Staff development revenue. Includes statutory teacher mentorship programs among the activities eligible for staff development revenue.

Makes this section effective for the 2015-2016 school year.

5 Teacher mentorship.

Subd. 1. Teacher mentoring programs. (a) Requires school districts to develop and implement mentoring programs for teachers new to the profession or district and allows districts to provide mentoring programs to other teachers.

(b) Requires teacher mentoring programs to support districts' teacher development and evaluation and peer review processes. Allows school districts to use staff development revenue or other funding source to pay a stipend to a mentor who may be a district employee or third party contractor.

Subd. 2. Program structure. (a) Directs the Board of Teaching, upon request and to the extent resources are available, to collaborate or contract with an education cooperative, a regional center of excellence, or a board-approved teacher preparation program or institution to assist school sites with teacher mentorship programs. Allows school districts and teacher preparation program providers to participate jointly in a teacher mentorship program. Allows the Board of Teaching to work to ensure effective teacher mentorship programs are available throughout the state. Allows the Board of Teaching to help school sites combine teacher development and evaluation procedures with other effective mentoring components.

(b) Directs all teacher mentorship programs to annually transmit to the Board of Teaching an electronic copy of the program structure and include longitudinal data on the program's effectiveness.

Subd. 3. Program criteria. Requires school districts to structure teacher mentorship programs to statutory criteria.

Subd. 4. Funding. Allows school districts to use staff development revenue or alternative compensation revenue to implement teacher mentorship programs.

Subd. 5. Program implementation. Requires mentorship sites to participate in activities that support teacher mentorship programs. Allows the Board of Teaching upon request and to the extent resources are available, to collaborate or contract with an education cooperative, a regional center of excellence, or a board-approved teacher preparation program or institution to provide resources and assistance to school sites and to develop a teacher mentorship program model that interested school districts may use in whole or in part.

Makes this section effective for the 2015-2016 school year.

6 Income tax subtraction; mentorship stipends. Allows a subtraction from taxable income of amounts received as stipends by individuals participating as mentors under section 5.

Makes this section effective beginning in tax year 2015.