

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill Number: SB 359

51st Legislature, 1st Session, 2013

Tracking Number: .192109.1

Short Title: School Employee Program Units

Sponsor(s): Senator John M. Sapien

Analyst: Mark Murphy

Date: February 19, 2013

Bill Summary:

SB 359 amends the *Public School Finance Act* to allow all “licensed school employees” certified by the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) to be eligible to receive a one-time salary differential equal to 1.5 times the unit value set for the school year.

Fiscal Impact:

SB 359 does not contain an appropriation.

Fiscal Issues:

According to the data from the Public Education Department (PED), 453 NBPTS teachers were provided a one-time salary differential for school year 2011-2012. At 1.5 times the unit value for that school year, each teacher received \$5,398.46 based on the following calculation.

$$1.5 \times \$3,598.97 \text{ (2011-2012 unit value)} = \$5,398.46$$

As a result, the State Equalization Guarantee distributed \$2.45 million for eligible NBPTS teachers for that school year.

According to the NBPTS website, in school year 2011-2012, 769 individuals in New Mexico were NBPTS certified. This total may include other licensed school employees such as principals, assistant principals, school counselors, and other certified staff that are currently not eligible to receive the one-time salary differential.

Substantive Issues:

According to NBPTS, certification:

- requires a detailed, year-long review of the candidate’s professional competence, including:
 - videotapes of applicants at work in the classroom; and
 - a passing score on a comprehensive exam;

- requires all applicants to:
 - possess a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution;
 - have completed three years of successful teaching or service as a school counselor at an early childhood, elementary, middle, or secondary school; and
 - hold a valid state teaching license or meet applicable licensure requirements as a school counselor; and

- is offered in the following 25 different areas (24 of which are specific to particular forms of teaching and one is specific to school counseling):
 - Art – early and middle childhood;
 - Art – early adolescence through young adulthood;
 - Career and Technical Education – early adolescence through young adulthood;
 - English as a New Language – early and middle childhood;
 - English as a New Language – early adolescence and young adulthood;
 - English Language Arts – early adolescence;
 - English Language Arts – adolescence and young adulthood;
 - Exceptional Needs Specialist – early childhood through young adulthood;
 - Generalist – early childhood;
 - Generalist – middle childhood;
 - Health – early adolescence through young adulthood;
 - Library Media – early childhood through young adulthood;
 - Literacy: Reading – Language Arts – early and middle childhood;
 - Mathematics – early adolescence;
 - Mathematics – adolescence and young adulthood;
 - Music – early and middle childhood;
 - Music – early adolescence through young adulthood;
 - Physical Education – early and middle childhood;
 - Physical Education – early adolescence through young adulthood;
 - School Counseling – early childhood through young adulthood;
 - Science – early adolescence;
 - Science – adolescence and young adulthood;
 - Social Studies – early adolescence;
 - Social Studies – adolescence and young adulthood; and
 - World Languages Other than English – early adolescence through young adulthood.

Background:

According to NBPTS:

- there are 102,237 NBPTS-certified individuals nationwide;
- the total number of NBPTS-certified individuals in New Mexico has steadily increased since school year 2007-2008 as follows:
 - 395 in school year 2007-2008;
 - 490 in school year 2008-2009;
 - 581 in school year 2009-2010;
 - 676 in school year 2010-2011;
 - 769 in school year 2011-2012; and

- the five New Mexico school districts with the highest numbers of NBPTS-certified individuals are:
 - Albuquerque Public Schools with 391;
 - Santa Fe Public Schools with 40;
 - Las Cruces Public Schools with 34;
 - Gallup-McKinley County Public Schools with 34; and
 - Moriarty-Edgewood Schools with 32.

Current provisions in the *School Personnel Act* allow for NBPTS certification to be considered in the licensure of Level 3-A, and Level 3-B applicants, as follows:

- the department shall grant a level three-A license to an applicant who has been a level two teacher for at least three years and holds a post-baccalaureate degree or **national board for professional teaching standards certification**; demonstrates instructional leader competence as required by the department and verified by the local superintendent through the highly objective uniform statewide standard of evaluation; and meets other qualifications for the license; and
- the department shall grant a level three-B license to an applicant who:
 - (1) holds a level two license and meets the requirements for a level three-A license or who holds a current level two teacher’s license and for at least four years, has held the highest-ranked counselor license as provided in Chapter 22, Article 10A NMSA 1978 and rules promulgated by the department;
 - (2) holds a post-baccalaureate degree **or national board for professional teaching standards certification**;
 - (3) has satisfactorily completed department-approved courses in administration and a department-approved administration apprenticeship program; and
 - (4) demonstrates instructional leader competence required by the department and verified by the local superintendent through the highly objective uniform statewide standard of evaluation.

Committee Referrals:

SEC/SFC

Related Bills:

- SB 164 *Equalization Guarantee at School for the Arts*
- SB 302 *Home & Charter School Student Program Units*
- SB 325 *Stop Some Indian Impact Aid Credits*
- SB 378 *K-3 Plus Equalization Guarantee Distribution*
- SB 379 *Vocational Education Funding Differential*
- *SB 433 *Public School Physical Education & Funding*
- HB 158 *School Performance-Based Budgeting*
- HB 165 *School Finance Units for Small Districts*
- HB 192 *School Program Units for Certain Personnel (Identical)*