

1 of a quality educator who:

2 (a) is newly hired, with priority given to a quality educator newly hired in an impacted school
3 pursuant to 20-4-503; and

4 (b) has an educational loan that is not in default and that has a minimum unpaid current balance of
5 at least \$1,000 at the time of application.

6 (2) A quality educator is eligible for state-funded loan repayment assistance for a lifetime total of
7 no more than 3 years and an additional 1 year of loan repayment assistance voluntarily funded by the impacted
8 school or the district under which the impacted-school is operated, with the maximum annual loan repayment
9 assistance not to exceed:

10 (a) \$3,000 of state-funded loan repayment assistance after the first complete year of teaching in
11 ~~an impacted school~~;

12 (b) \$4,000 of state-funded loan repayment assistance after the second complete year of teaching
13 in the same impacted-school or another impacted-school within the same school district;

14 (c) \$5,000 of state-funded loan repayment assistance after the third complete year of teaching in
15 the same impacted-school or another impacted-school within the same school district; and

16 (d) up to \$5,000 of loan repayment assistance funded by the impacted-school or the district under
17 which the impacted-school is operated after the fourth complete year of teaching in the same impacted-school
18 or another impacted-school within the same school district.

19 (3) If the funding for state-funded loan repayment assistance in any year is less than the total
20 amount for which Montana quality educators qualify, the superintendent of public instruction shall prorate
21 repayment assistance amounts accordingly as follows:

22 (a) The superintendent of public instruction shall prioritize repayment for quality educators working
23 at impacted schools first. If there are funds remaining after allocating amounts to fully fund quality educators
24 working in impacted schools pursuant to subsection (2), the superintendent of public instruction may award the
25 remaining funds to quality educators who are working in schools that are not impacted schools and prorate the
26 remaining funds if necessary. If the appropriated funds are insufficient to fully fund the amounts required for
27 quality educators working in impacted schools, the superintendent of public instruction shall prorate the
28 amounts as provided in subsection (3)(b).

