



1 (d) A school district that is A postsecondary institution is eligible for a grant under this section may  
2 be awarded a grant for up to 2 years to develop a grow your own grant program.

3 (3) Contingent on appropriation by the legislature, the commissioner shall create and administer:

4 (a) a grant program for ~~eligible school districts~~ eligible postsecondary institutions, in partnership  
5 with at least one eligible school district, to develop or expand a grow your own grant program that encourages  
6 students to pursue a career in teaching; and

7 (b) — a grant program for tribal colleges, community colleges, and 2-year campuses to:

8 (i) — ~~pursue accreditation for teacher preparation programs in the specific licensure or endorsement~~  
9 ~~areas that are most impacted by quality educator shortages; or~~

10 (ii) — ~~develop collaborative programs with 4-year institutions with accredited teacher preparation~~  
11 ~~programs in the specific licensure or endorsement areas that are most impacted by quality educator shortages,~~  
12 ~~with an emphasis on collaborative programs that can be conducted in a manner that does not require residency~~  
13 ~~at the 4-year institution; and~~

14 (e) (b) a grow your own grant scholarship program that provides a last-dollar grant of up to \$5,000 a  
15 year, not to exceed the cost of attendance, and not to exceed \$10,000 total for any student, to students who:

16 (i) have participated or are participating in a grow your own grant program, as described in  
17 subsection (3)(a), ~~while in high school and have earned at least 6 postsecondary credits toward an education~~  
18 ~~degree or are living in a community with a school impacted by a quality educator shortage;~~

19 (ii) are currently enrolled in a teacher preparation program in a licensure or endorsement area  
20 identified as most impacted by quality educator shortages; and

21 (iii) commit to teaching in a school impacted by a quality educator shortage; and

22 (iv) if participation in a grow your own grant program occurred solely during high school, earned at  
23 least 6 postsecondary credits toward an education degree.

24 (4) — ~~The commissioner shall convert a grant under subsection (3)(c) to a loan if the recipient of the~~  
25 ~~grant:~~

26 (i) — ~~is not licensed in a licensure or endorsement area identified as most impacted by quality~~  
27 ~~educator shortages within 5 years of receiving a grant; or~~

28 (ii) — ~~does not teach for 3 or more years in a school impacted by a quality educator shortage and in~~

1 a licensure or endorsement area identified as most impacted by quality educator shortages within 10 years of  
2 receiving a grant.

3 (5) (4) The legislature intends that grants made to school districts and postsecondary institutions  
4 pursuant to subsections (3)(a) and (3)(b) subsection (3)(a) are one-time startup grants that include:

5 (a) a matching component provided by ~~the~~ either a participating school district or the  
6 postsecondary institution; and

7 (b) a plan by the school district or postsecondary institution to sustain programs beyond the term of  
8 the grant.

9 (6) (5) In accordance with 5-11-210, the commissioner shall report annually to the education interim  
10 committee on the status and impacts of the grant programs described in this section.

11 (7) (6) For the purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

12 (a) "Postsecondary institution" means a unit of the Montana university system or a tribal college or  
13 community college located in the state.

14 (b) "quality Quality educator shortage" means a shortage identified by the board of public  
15 education pursuant to 20-4-503. (Terminates June 30, 2027--sec. 6, Ch. 514, L. 2021 2029.)"

16

17 **Section 2.** Section 6, Chapter 514, Laws of 2021, is amended to read:

18 **"Section 6. Termination.** [This act] terminates June 30, 2027, 2029."

19

20 NEW SECTION. **Section 3. Appropriation.** (1) There is appropriated \$500,000 from the general fund  
21 to the commissioner of higher education for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, for the purposes of [section  
22 1].

23 (2) The legislature intends that the appropriation in this section be considered part of the ongoing  
24 base for the next legislative session.

25

26 NEW SECTION. **Section 4. Effective date.** [This act] is effective July 1, 2025.

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