

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2025

H.B. 482
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HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE BILL DRH30213-MT-70

Short Title: Reauthorize & Revise Teacher Bonuses/Military. (Public)

Sponsors: Representative F. Jackson.

Referred to:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT TO REAUTHORIZE BONUSES FOR TEACHERS FOR THE 2025-2027 FISCAL
BIENNIUM AND TO REVISE THE PROGRAM TO PERMIT TEACHERS TO RECEIVE
THE BONUSES WHO ARE UNABLE TO CONTINUE TEACHING IN THE SAME
PUBLIC SCHOOL UNIT BECAUSE OF MILITARY ORDERS.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1.(a) Establish Consolidated Bonus Program. – The State Board of
Education shall establish a consolidated teacher bonus program for the 2025-2027 fiscal
biennium to reward teacher performance and encourage student learning and improvement. To
attain this goal, the Department of Public Instruction shall administer bonus pay to qualifying
teachers whose salaries are supported from State funds in January of 2026 and 2027, based on
data from the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 school years, respectively, in accordance with this
section.

SECTION 1.(b) Definitions. – For purposes of this section, the following definitions
shall apply:

- (1) Eligible advanced course teacher. – A teacher of Advanced Placement
courses, International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme courses, or the
Cambridge Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) program
who meets the following criteria:
 - a. Is employed by, or retired having last held a position at, one or more
of the following:
 1. A qualifying public school unit.
 2. The North Carolina Virtual Public School program.
 - b. Taught one or more students who received a score listed in subsection
(c) of this section.
- (2) Eligible career and technical education (CTE) teacher. – A teacher who meets
the following criteria:
 - a. Is employed by, or retired having last held a position at, a qualifying
public school unit.
 - b. Taught one or more students who attained approved industry
certifications or credentials consistent with G.S. 115C-156.2.
- (3) Eligible growth teacher. – A teacher who meets at least one of the following
criteria:
 - a. Is employed by, or retired having last held a position at, a qualifying
public school unit and meets one of the following criteria:



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1. Is in the top twenty-five percent (25%) of teachers in the State according to the EVAAS student growth index score for third grade reading from the previous school year.
 2. Is in the top twenty-five percent (25%) of teachers in the State according to the EVAAS student growth index score for fourth or fifth grade reading from the previous school year.
 3. Is in the top twenty-five percent (25%) of teachers in the State according to the EVAAS student growth index score for fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, or eighth grade mathematics from the previous school year.
- b. Is employed by, or retired having last held a position at, a local school administrative unit and meets one of the following criteria:
1. Is in the top twenty-five percent (25%) of teachers in the teacher's respective local school administrative unit according to the EVAAS student growth index score for third grade reading from the previous school year.
 2. Is in the top twenty-five percent (25%) of teachers in the teacher's respective local school administrative unit according to the EVAAS student growth index score for fourth or fifth grade reading from the previous school year.
 3. Is in the top twenty-five percent (25%) of teachers in the teacher's respective local school administrative unit according to the EVAAS student growth index score for fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, or eighth grade mathematics from the previous school year.
- c. Was employed by a local school administrative unit that employed in the previous school year three or fewer total teachers in that teacher's grade level as long as the teacher has an EVAAS student growth index score from the previous school year of exceeded expected growth in one of the following subject areas:
1. Third grade reading.
 2. Fourth or fifth grade reading.
 3. Fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, or eighth grade mathematics.
- (4) EVAAS. – The Education Value-Added Assessment System.
- (5) Qualifying public school unit. – Any of the following:
- a. A local school administrative unit.
 - b. A charter school.
 - c. A regional school.
 - d. A school providing elementary or secondary instruction operated by The University of North Carolina under Article 29A of Chapter 116 of the General Statutes.
- (6) Qualifying teacher. – An eligible teacher who meets one of the following criteria:
- a. Remains employed teaching in the same qualifying public school unit or, if an eligible advanced course teacher is only employed by the North Carolina Virtual Public School program, remains employed teaching in that program, at least from the school year the data is collected until January 1 of the corresponding school year that the bonus is paid.

- b. Retired, between the last day of the school year in which the data is collected and January 1 of the corresponding school year in which the bonus is paid, after attaining one of the following:
 1. The age of at least 65 with five years of creditable service.
 2. The age of at least 60 with 25 years of creditable service.
 3. Thirty years of creditable service.
- c. Left employment with the qualifying public school unit after the last day of the school year in which the data is collected due to the transfer or pending transfer of a spouse pursuant to an official military order. In order to receive a bonus pursuant to this sub-subdivision, a qualifying teacher shall provide the following information to the qualifying public school unit by January 1 of the school year in which the bonus is to be paid:
 1. Notice of the transfer.
 2. An updated mailing address for the teacher.

SECTION 1.(c) Advanced Course Bonuses. – A bonus in the amount of fifty dollars (\$50.00) shall be provided to qualifying advanced course teachers for each student taught in each advanced course who receives the following score:

- (1) For Advanced Placement courses, a score of three or higher on the College Board Advanced Placement Examination.
- (2) For International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme courses, a score of four or higher on the International Baccalaureate course examination.
- (3) For the Cambridge AICE program, a score of "E" or higher on the Cambridge AICE program examinations.

SECTION 1.(d) CTE Bonuses. – For qualifying career and technical education teachers, bonuses shall be provided in the following amounts:

- (1) A bonus in the amount of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) for each student taught by a teacher who provided instruction in a course that led to the attainment of an industry certification or credential with a twenty-five dollar (\$25.00) value ranking as determined under subsection (e) of this section.
- (2) A bonus in the amount of fifty dollars (\$50.00) for each student taught by a teacher who provided instruction in a course that led to the attainment of an industry certification or credential with a fifty dollar (\$50.00) value ranking as determined under subsection (e) of this section.

SECTION 1.(e) CTE Course Value Ranking. – The Department of Commerce, in consultation with the State Board, shall assign a value ranking for each industry certification and credential based on academic rigor and employment value in accordance with this subsection. Fifty percent (50%) of the ranking shall be based on academic rigor and the remaining fifty percent (50%) on employment value. Academic rigor and employment value shall be based on the following elements:

- (1) Academic rigor shall be based on the number of instructional hours, including work experience or internship hours, required to earn the industry certification or credential, with extra weight given for coursework that also provides community college credit.
- (2) Employment value shall be based on the entry wage, growth rate in employment for each occupational category, and average annual openings for the primary occupation linked with the industry certification or credential.

SECTION 1.(f) Statewide Growth Bonuses. – Of the funds appropriated in this act for the program, bonuses shall be provided to qualifying teachers who are eligible teachers under sub-subdivision a. of subdivision (3) of subsection (b) of this section, as follows:

(1) The sum of five million dollars (\$5,000,000) shall be allocated for bonuses to eligible teachers under sub-sub-subdivision a.1. of subdivision (3) of subsection (b) of this section. These funds shall be distributed equally among qualifying teachers.

(2) A bonus in the amount of two thousand dollars (\$2,000) shall be awarded to each qualifying teacher who is an eligible teacher under sub-sub-subdivision a.2. of subdivision (3) of subsection (b) of this section.

(3) A bonus in the amount of two thousand dollars (\$2,000) shall be awarded to each qualifying teacher who is an eligible teacher under sub-sub-subdivision a.3. of subdivision (3) of subsection (b) of this section.

SECTION 1.(g) Local Growth Bonuses. – Of the funds appropriated in this act for the program, bonuses shall be provided to eligible teachers under sub-subdivisions b. and c. of subdivision (3) of subsection (b) of this section, as follows:

(1) The sum of five million dollars (\$5,000,000) shall be allocated for bonuses to eligible EVAAS teachers under sub-sub-subdivisions b.1. and c.1. of subdivision (3) of subsection (b) of this section. These funds shall be divided proportionally based on average daily membership in third grade for each local school administrative unit and then distributed equally among qualifying third grade reading teachers in each local school administrative unit.

(2) A bonus in the amount of two thousand dollars (\$2,000) shall be awarded to each qualifying teacher who is an eligible teacher under sub-sub-subdivision b.2. or c.2. of subdivision (3) of subsection (b) of this section.

(3) A bonus in the amount of two thousand dollars (\$2,000) shall be awarded to each qualifying teacher who is an eligible teacher under sub-sub-subdivision b.3. or c.3. of subdivision (3) of subsection (b) of this section.

SECTION 1.(h) Limitations and Other Criteria. – The following additional limitations and other criteria shall apply to the program:

(1) Bonus funds awarded to a teacher pursuant to subsection (c), subsection (d), subdivision (1) of subsection (f), and subdivision (1) of subsection (g) of this section shall not exceed three thousand five hundred dollars (\$3,500) per subsection or subdivision in any given school year.

(2) A qualifying teacher who is an eligible teacher under sub-sub-subdivision a.1., b.1., or c.1. of subdivision (3) of subsection (b) of this section may receive a bonus under both subdivision (1) of subsection (f) and subdivision (1) of subsection (g) of this section but shall not receive more than seven thousand dollars (\$7,000) pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (f) and subdivision (1) of subsection (g) of this section in any given school year.

(3) A qualifying teacher who is an eligible teacher under sub-sub-subdivision a.2., b.2., or c.2. of subdivision (3) of subsection (b) of this section may receive a bonus under both subdivision (2) of subsection (f) and subdivision (2) of subsection (g) of this section but shall not receive more than two bonuses pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (f) and subdivision (2) of subsection (g) of this section in any given school year.

(4) A qualifying teacher who is an eligible teacher under sub-sub-subdivision a.3., b.3., or c.3. of subdivision (3) of subsection (b) of this section may receive a bonus under both subdivision (3) of subsection (f) and subdivision (3) of subsection (g) of this section but shall not receive more than two bonuses pursuant to subdivision (3) of subsection (f) and subdivision (3) of subsection (g) of this section in any given school year.

SECTION 1.(i) Bonuses Not Compensation. – Bonuses awarded to a teacher pursuant to this section shall be in addition to any regular wage or other bonus the teacher receives

or is scheduled to receive. Notwithstanding G.S. 135-1(7a), the bonuses awarded under this section are not compensation under Article 1 of Chapter 135 of the General Statutes, Retirement System for Teachers and State Employees.

SECTION 1.(j) Study and Report. – The State Board of Education shall study the effect of the program on teacher performance and retention. The State Board shall report the results of its findings and the amount of bonuses awarded to the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee, and the Fiscal Research Division by March 15 of each year of the 2025-2027 fiscal biennium. The report shall include, at a minimum, the following information:

- (1) Number of students enrolled and taking examinations in each of the following categories of courses:
 - a. Advanced Placement.
 - b. International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme.
 - c. Cambridge AICE program.
 - d. Courses needed for the attainment of an industry certification or credential.
- (2) Number of students receiving outcomes on examinations resulting in the award of a bonus for a teacher in each category of courses identified in subdivision (1) of this subsection.
- (3) Number of teachers receiving a bonus in each category of courses identified in subdivision (1) of this subsection.
- (4) The amounts awarded to teachers for each category of courses identified in subdivision (1) of this subsection.
- (5) The type of industry certifications and credentials earned by the students, the value ranking for each certification and credential, the number of bonuses earned for each certification or credential, and the total bonus amount awarded for each certification or credential.
- (6) Average bonus amount awarded to each qualifying teacher who is an eligible teacher under sub-sub-subdivision a.1., b.1., or c.1. of subdivision (3) of subsection (b) of this section.
- (7) The percentage of teachers who received a bonus pursuant to this section and were eligible to receive a bonus for teaching in the same grade level or course in January 2024 or January 2025, or both, where applicable, pursuant to one of the following programs:
 - a. The Advanced Course and CTE Bonus Program provided in Section 7A.4 of S.L. 2021-180.
 - b. The Growth-Based Teacher Bonus Program provided in Section 7A.2 of S.L. 2022-74.
- (8) The percentage of teachers who received a bonus pursuant to this section and received a bonus for teaching in the same grade level or course in either January 2024 or January 2025 pursuant to one of the programs listed in subdivision (7) of this subsection.
- (9) The percentage of teachers who received a bonus pursuant to this section and received a bonus for teaching in the same grade level or course in January 2024 or January 2025, or both, where applicable, pursuant to one of the programs listed in subdivision (7) of this subsection.
- (10) The statistical relationship between a teacher receiving a bonus in January 2026 or 2027 pursuant to this section and receiving a bonus pursuant to a predecessor bonus program. For purposes of this subdivision, the following are predecessor programs:

- a. Bonuses awarded pursuant to Section 7A.4(c) of S.L. 2021-180 are predecessors to bonuses awarded pursuant to subsection (c) of this section.
 - b. Bonuses awarded pursuant to Section 7A.4(d) of S.L. 2021-180 are predecessors to bonuses awarded pursuant to subsection (d) of this section.
 - c. Bonuses awarded pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (c) and subdivision (1) of subsection (d) of Section 7A.2 of S.L. 2022-74 are predecessors to bonuses awarded pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (f) and subdivision (1) of subsection (g) of this section.
 - d. Bonuses awarded pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (c) and subdivision (2) of subsection (d) of Section 7A.2 of S.L. 2022-74 are predecessors to bonuses awarded pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (f) and subdivision (2) of subsection (g) of this section.
 - e. Bonuses awarded pursuant to subdivision (c)(3) and subdivision (d)(3) of Section 7A.2 of S.L. 2022-74 are predecessors to bonuses awarded pursuant to subdivision (3) of subsection (f) and subdivision (3) of subsection (g) of this section.
- (11) The distribution of statewide and local growth bonuses awarded pursuant to this section as among qualifying public school units and, where applicable, schools within those units.

SECTION 2. This act becomes effective July 1, 2025.