

## Advancement Award Criterion (Scholarships)

### Description

The award is a scholarship to encourage educators currently teaching special education PreK-12 or in secondary schools (grades 7-12) in math, chemistry, physics, physical science, information technology, and learning technology, as indicated in 53A-1a-601(5), to earn additional education leading to an endorsement, degree, or advanced degree. The award is open for submission year-round, as long as funding is available.

### Eligibility

- Teachers must submit application to the school principal, school district superintendent or his/her designee; applications must be sent to PEJEP **by the district**. Applications from individuals will be returned.
- Teachers must be a fully licensed teacher or qualify for a temporary license under an authorization request.
- Teachers must agree to enroll within one academic year from the date of the award. Financial assistance will be limited to **four (4)** consecutive years starting from the date of initial enrollment following the award. Part-time enrollment would be three (3) semester hours of credit, per semester, as a minimum requirement. The teacher must attend an accredited institution or program, public or private, as specified in R277-503-1-K, N, or T.
- A summer stipend of \$6,000 for 9+ credit hours may be included in the scholarship, according to the estimated credit hours stipulated by the applicant on the application (pgs.2/3), and are limited to two (2) summers. If the applicant is enrolled in a structured program which specifies six (6) credit hours for summer, a summer stipend of \$4,000 may be applicable. Endorsements may receive one (1) summer stipend.
- Teachers must show evidence of acceptance into an educational program leading to a degree, endorsement, or graduate degree in: **a)** PreK-12 Special Education or **b)** Secondary Education (7-12) in areas identified in 53A-1a-601(5). This specifically precludes coursework leading to a license in counseling or administration. (see Qualified Educational Programs sheet)
- Teachers must commit to a teaching assignment in Special Education PreK-12 or secondary school-level grades 7-12, in the areas identified in 53A-1a-601(5) and agree to a four (4) consecutive year teaching contract and the repayment provisions that apply.
- Funding for endorsements may be reviewed by the Committee.
- Funding requests may include expenses for classes that require travel and lodging.

Districts shall make a commitment for re-employment; however, if no employment opportunities exist, the district may grant the teacher a release to seek employment in other districts within the State. If the teacher decides to secure out-of-state employment, the repayment provision stipulated in the contract will apply.

#### PEJEP CONTACT

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