

Effective 5/3/2023

53F-7-203 Paid professional hours for educators.

- (1) Subject to legislative appropriations, the state board shall provide funding to each LEA to provide additional paid professional hours to the following educators in accordance with this section:
 - (a) general education and special education teachers;
 - (b) counselors;
 - (c) school administration;
 - (d) school specialists;
 - (e) student support;
 - (f) school psychologists;
 - (g) speech language pathologists; and
 - (h) audiologists.
- (2) The state board shall distribute funds appropriated to the state board under Subsection 53F-9-204(6) to each LEA in proportion to the number of educators described in Subsection (1) within the LEA.
- (3) An LEA shall use funding under this section to provide paid professional hours that:
 - (a) provide educators with the knowledge and skills necessary to enable students to succeed in a well-rounded education and to meet the challenging state academic standards; and
 - (b) may include activities that:
 - (i) improve and increase an educator's:
 - (A) knowledge of the academic subjects the educator teaches;
 - (B) time to plan and prepare daily lessons based on student needs;
 - (C) understanding of how students learn; and
 - (D) ability to analyze student work and achievement from multiple sources, including how to adjust instructional strategies, assessments, and materials based on the analysis;
 - (ii) are an integral part of broad school-wide and LEA-wide educational improvement plans;
 - (iii) allow personalized plans for each educator to address the educator's specific needs identified in observation or other feedback;
 - (iv) advance educator understanding of:
 - (A) effective and evidence-based instructional strategies; and
 - (B) strategies for improving student academic achievement or substantially increasing the knowledge and teaching skills of educators;
 - (v) are aligned with, and directly related to, academic goals of the school or LEA; and
 - (vi) include instruction in the use of data and assessments to inform and instruct classroom practice.
- (4)
 - (a) An educator shall:
 - (i) on or before the fifth day of instruction in a given school year, create a plan, in consultation with the educator's principal, on how the educator plans to use paid professional hours provided under this section during the school year; and
 - (ii) before the end of a given school year, provide a written statement to the educator's principal of how the educator used paid professional hours provided under this section during the school year.
 - (b)
 - (i) Subsection (4)(a)(i) does not limit an educator who begins employment after the fifth day of instruction in a given year from receiving paid professional hours under this section.

- (ii) An LEA may prorate the paid professional hours of an educator who begins employment after the fifth day of instruction in a given year according to the portion of the school year for which the LEA employs the educator.

Amended by Chapter 348, 2023 General Session