

GROW YOUR OWN TEACHER AND SCHOOL COUNSELOR

PIPELINE PROGRAM

2021 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Jefferson Moss

Senate Sponsor: Ann Millner

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill creates the Grow Your Own Teacher and School Counselor Pipeline Program to provide scholarships to certain school employees.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ defines terms;
- ▶ creates the Grow Your Own Teacher and School Counselor Pipeline Program (program) to provide scholarships to certain school employees;
- ▶ establishes eligibility criteria and allowed uses for the program; and
- ▶ requires the State Board of Education to make rules and administer the program.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

ENACTS:

53F-5-218, Utah Code Annotated 1953

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:



28 Section 1. Section **53F-5-218** is enacted to read:

29 **53F-5-218. Grow Your Own Teacher and Counselor Pipeline Program.**

30 (1) As used in this section:

31 (a) "Paraprofessional" means an individual who:

32 (i) works with students in an LEA as a paraprofessional or in a similar teaching
33 assistant position; and

34 (ii) is not licensed to teach.

35 (b) "Program" means the Grow Your Own Teacher and School Counselor Pipeline
36 Program that this section creates.

37 (c) "School counselor" means an educator who is:

38 (i) licensed as a school counselor in accordance with state board rule; and

39 (ii) assigned to provide direct and indirect services to students in accordance with a
40 school counseling program model that the state board provides.

41 (d) "School counselor assistant" means a student who is:

42 (i) enrolled in an accredited bachelor's degree program in a related field; and

43 (ii) completing the student's practicum experience in a school counseling department
44 under the supervision of a licensed school counselor.

45 (e) "School counselor intern" means a student who is:

46 (i) enrolled in an accredited school counselor master's degree program; and

47 (ii) completing the student's hours of a supervised counseling internship by applying
48 appropriate school counseling techniques under the supervision of a licensed school counselor.

49 (2) The Grow Your Own Teacher and School Counselor Pipeline Program is a
50 competitive grant program created to provide funding to LEAs to award scholarships to
51 paraprofessionals, school counselor assistants, and school counselor interns within the LEA for
52 education and training to become licensed teachers or licensed school counselors.

53 (3) The state board shall use money appropriated for the program to provide funding to
54 LEAs that are awarded grants under the program to award scholarships to eligible candidates
55 whom principals within the LEA nominate, in an amount that the state board determines.

56 (4) An LEA that participates in the program may select a candidate for a scholarship
57 award if:

58 (a) the candidate is a resident of the state; and

59 (b) (i) for a paraprofessional:
60 (A) a school district or charter school has employed the candidate as a paraprofessional
61 for at least one year before entering the program; or
62 (B) subject to Subsection (5), the candidate has experience outside the school district,
63 charter school, or state that is equivalent to the experience described in Subsection (4)(b)(ii);
64 (ii) for a school counselor assistant, the candidate:
65 (A) is enrolled in a bachelor's degree program in a related field; and
66 (B) demonstrates a commitment to continue the school counselor assistant's education
67 after graduation in school counseling; or
68 (iii) for a school counselor intern, the candidate is enrolled in an accredited school
69 counselor master's degree program accredited by:
70 (A) the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs; or
71 (B) another regionally recognized accrediting body that meets the state board's
72 standards for school counselor education programs.
73 (5) The percentage of an LEA's paraprofessional scholarship recipients who are eligible
74 for a scholarship using equivalent experience under Subsection (4)(b)(i)(B) may not exceed
75 20%.
76 (6) A scholarship award under the program may only be used for:
77 (a) tuition, books, fees, and certification tests for required coursework and licensure;
78 (b) stipends for mentors; and
79 (c) if the LEA pays 0.15 of a full-time equivalent and all employee benefits, payment
80 of a 0.35 full-time equivalent for:
81 (i) a paraprofessional, up to one semester of student teaching; or
82 (ii) a school counselor assistant or school counselor intern, up to two semesters of
83 practicum or internship hours.
84 (7) A paraprofessional scholarship recipient must be continuously employed as a
85 paraprofessional by the paraprofessional's LEA while pursuing a degree using scholarship
86 money under the program.
87 (8) The state board shall make rules in accordance with this section and Title 63G,
88 Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, to administer the program, including rules
89 regarding:

- 90 (a) grant and scholarship application procedures;
- 91 (b) procedures for distributing scholarship money;
- 92 (c) assignment and eligibility of qualified mentors;
- 93 (d) stipends for mentors;
- 94 (e) administrative costs for regional education service agencies, as that term is defined
95 in Section [53G-4-410](#); and
- 96 (f) eligibility requirements for potential candidates for scholarships regarding the
97 completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid and the acceptance of other grants,
98 tuition or fee waivers, and scholarships offered to the candidate.