

# Dale Hickam Excellent Teaching Program

Legislative Changes  
to Section 1012.72, Florida Statutes  
May 2008

# Substantive Programmatic Changes

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- Changes intent of program to that of rewarding FL public school teachers who attain NB certification.
- Limits bonus eligibility to one ten-year period for initial certification.
- Eliminates state funded certification fee subsidy for FL teachers to pursue NB certification.
- Eliminates state funded portfolio reimbursement payments to NB candidates.
- Provides certification bonus to “each individual” who is employed by a public school or public school district, holds NB certification **and** has “satisfactory **teaching** performance” under s. 1012.34, F.S.

# Substantive Programmatic Changes

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- Eliminates state funded retirement contribution on behalf of NB certified teachers.
- Eliminates repayment of subsidy requirement.
- Eliminates requirement of teacher to remain in classroom the year after participation in the NB process.
- Eliminates default ramifications and wage garnishing authority.
- Eliminates State Board of Education rule relating to DHETP.
- Provides for prorating salary bonuses and/or mentoring bonuses if budget is insufficient to fund at full 10% level, such that: salary bonuses will be paid at the full 10% level first, if budget allows; then mentoring bonuses will be paid with remaining budget, if available.

# Ramifications

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- By deleting the SBER, there is **no longer** a requirement for each recipient to document the following:
  - Full time employment as instructional personnel
  - Engaging exclusively in activities that further student instruction
  - Teaching students a majority of the time
  - Holding a FL professional educator's certificate with no EPC disciplinary actions in the past five years
- No “grandfathering” provision to pay bonuses next year for currently renewed NBCTs

# Substantive Budgetary Changes

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- Last year's budget allocation was about \$100,000,000 (reduced to about \$88 million during special session)
- This year's total budget allocation is \$55,000,000
- Salary bonuses paid in 2007-08 = \$51,000,000

# Changes at DOE

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- For working purposes, the term “Salary” Bonus will change to “Certification” Bonus
- Certification Bonuses will be processed immediately after the announcement of new NBCTs; much earlier in the year.
- Further information will be communicated via District Contacts as it becomes available.

# Federal Funds – New Applicants

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## Candidate Subsidy Program 2008-2009 Candidate Cycle

Funding has been provided by the  
United States Congress through a grant from the  
U.S. Department of Education.

# Federal Fiscal 2008 Allocation

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Federal funds available for allocation to:

- 50 states
- District of Columbia
- Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Department of Defense Education Activity
- Near East South Asia Council of Overseas Schools (NESAs)

***NOTE: All agencies are asked to give priority to teachers from high poverty/low performing districts.***

# Timing and Process for Determining State Allocations

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- The total allocations by state are proportional to the volume of teachers in each state.
  - Florida has received \$887,220
  - Allocations to districts will be based on the volume of teachers per district, with all districts having at least one applicant.
  - Florida will allow maximum amount of federal subsidy of \$1250 per candidate.
  - See spreadsheet provided for individual district applicants allotments.

A portion of that total allocation is made available in the spring, with the remainder of the allocation made available in the fall.

- Florida will use the spring allocation for new candidates
- Florida will use the fall allocation (if any) for retakes.

# CERTIFICATION COSTS

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## Application Charges:

- First-time candidates -- \$65
- Retake candidates -- \$15

## Assessment Fees:

- First-time candidates -- \$2500
  - Non-refundable portion is \$500
- Retake fee is \$350 per entry/exercise

# Fee Subsidy Guidelines

## 2008-2009 Candidates

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- ✓ Candidate fees can be subsidized for up to one-half the assessment fee for first-time candidates (\$1,250)
- ✓ Retake candidates can receive subsidy funding for one exercise (\$350)
- ✓ Subsidy funding will be used for state licensed teachers in public school districts.
- ✓ Subsidy funding can only be allocated to candidates **who have not previously received subsidy funds**
  - ✓ Note: Even if a retake candidate only receives \$350, they will be identified as a “previously subsidized candidate” and will not be eligible for another \$350 the following year (should they need it).

# **CRITICAL DATES**

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- Subsidy transmittals for first-time candidates due by December 31, 2008
- Subsidy transmittals for retake candidates due by January 31, 2009
- Final fee payment for all candidates due by January 31, 2009

# The National Board Scholarship Program (NBSP)

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- Founded in 2002 with a grant from Washington Mutual Foundation
- Currently made up of eighteen scholarship funds providing over \$500,000 in financial aid for teachers pursuing NBC
- All scholarships are awarded on a first-come, first serve basis

# The National Board Scholarship Program (NBSP)

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Visit the NBSP page at [www.nbpts.org](http://www.nbpts.org)!

- To learn about available funding opportunities
- To learn how to submit a scholarship application

Direct scholarship related questions to Melissa Villareal at 888-908-3337 or via email at [scholarship\\_manager@nbpts.org](mailto:scholarship_manager@nbpts.org)

# Questions?

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Contact

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Or

your local district contact