
Guidelines for the Mentor Teacher Program

2009-10

"Mentor teacher program" means a program established and maintained by a the board of education of a school district for the purpose of providing probationary teachers with professional support and the continuous assistance of an onsite mentor teacher.

"Mentor teacher" means a certificated teacher who has completed at least three consecutive school years of employment in the school district, has been selected by the board of education of the school district on the basis of having demonstrated exemplary teaching ability as indicated by criteria established by the state board of education, and has participated in and successfully completed a training program for mentor teachers provided for by the board of education of the school district in accordance with guidelines prescribed by the state board of education. The primary function of a mentor teacher shall be to provide probationary teachers with professional support and assistance. A mentor teacher may provide assistance and guidance to no more than two probationary teachers.

"Probationary teacher" means a certificated teacher to whom the provisions of K.S.A. 72-5438 through 72-5443, and amendments thereto, do not apply.

The board of education of each school district may establish and maintain a mentor teacher program and, commencing with the 2000-01 school year, may apply for a grant of state moneys for the purpose of providing stipends for mentor teachers.

To be eligible to receive a grant of state moneys for maintenance of a mentor teacher program, a board of education shall submit to the state board of education an application for a grant and a description of the program. The application and description shall be prepared in such form and manner as the state board shall require and shall be submitted at a time to be determined and specified by the state board. Approval by the state board of the program and the application is prerequisite to the award of a grant.

Each board of education which is awarded a grant for maintenance of a mentor teacher program shall make such periodic and special reports of statistical and financial information to the state board of education as it may request.

On or before January 1, 2001, the state board of education shall adopt rules and regulations for the administration of mentor teacher programs and shall:

- Establish standards and criteria for evaluating and approving mentor teacher programs and applications of school districts for grants;

- Evaluate and approve mentor teacher programs;

- Establish criteria for determination of exemplary teaching ability of certificated teachers for qualification as mentor teachers;

- Prescribe guidelines for the selection by boards of education of mentor teachers and for the provision by boards of education of training programs for mentor teachers;

- Be responsible for awarding grants to school districts; and

- Request of and receive from each school district which is awarded a grant for maintenance of a mentor teacher program reports containing information with regard to the effectiveness of the program.

(b) Subject to the availability of appropriations for mentor teacher programs maintained by school districts, and within the limits of any such appropriations, the state board of education shall determine the amount of grants to be awarded school districts by multiplying an amount not to exceed \$1,000 by the number of mentor teachers participating in the program maintained by a school district. The product is the amount of the grant to be awarded to the district. Upon receipt of a grant of state moneys for maintenance of a mentor teacher program, the amount of the grant shall be deposited in the general fund of the school district. Moneys deposited in the general fund of a school district under this subsection shall be considered reimbursements for the purpose of the school district finance and quality performance act. The full amount of the grant shall be allocated among the mentor teachers employed by the school district to provide a mentor teacher with an annual stipend in an amount not to exceed \$1,000. Such annual stipend shall be over and above the regular salary to which the mentor teacher is entitled for the school year.

The state board of education shall provide any board, upon request, with technical advice and assistance regarding the establishment and maintenance of a mentor teacher program or an application for a grant of state moneys.