

1 **SENATE FLOOR VERSION**

2 March 5, 2025

3 **AS AMENDED**

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6 SENATE BILL NO. 235

7 By: Pugh

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10 [**teachers - Program - grant - application - report -**
11 **promulgation of rules - fund - codification -**
12 **effective date -**
13 **emergency]**

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15 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

16 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified

17 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 698.4 of Title 70, unless there
18 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

19 A. As used in this section, "eligible school district" means a
20 public school district or public school district foundation in this
21 state that has established a program to provide tuition or loan
22 repayment assistance to school district employees who pursue an
23 undergraduate degree from a teacher preparation program accredited
24 by the Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability leading
 to a standard teaching certificate.

25 B. There is hereby created the Grow Your Own Educator Program
26 to provide matching fund grants to eligible school districts. The
27 program shall be established and maintained by the Office of
28 Educational Quality and Accountability.

1 C. An eligible school district seeking to participate in the
2 Grow Your Own Educator Program shall submit an application in the
3 manner and on a form prescribed by the Office of Educational Quality
4 and Accountability. The application shall include:

- 5 1. The amount of matching fund grants requested;
- 6 2. The position of the employee pursuing an undergraduate
7 degree from a teacher preparation program; and
- 8 3. The subject area in which the employee is pursuing an
9 undergraduate degree from a teacher preparation program.

10 D. Matching fund grants shall be awarded on a first-come,
11 first-served basis. Grants shall be provided without any limitation
12 other than the amount of funds available in the Grow Your Own
13 Educator Revolving Fund created pursuant to Section 2 of this act
14 and the number of eligible school districts that apply.

15 E. By June 30, 2026, and each June 30 thereafter, an eligible
16 school district that receives a matching fund grant pursuant to this
17 section shall electronically submit a report to the Office of
18 Educational Quality and Accountability that includes:

- 19 1. A status update on the progress the employee receiving
20 tuition assistance is making in the teacher preparation program in
21 which he or she is enrolled; or
- 22 2. The employment status of the employee receiving loan
23 repayment assistance.

1 F. By December 31, 2026, and each December 31 thereafter, the
2 Office of Educational Quality and Accountability shall
3 electronically submit a report to the Governor, the President Pro
4 Tempore of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of
5 Representatives that includes:

- 6 1. The school district matching fund grant recipients;
- 7 2. The amount of matching fund grants allocated to each
recipient;
- 9 3. The subject area in which the employee receiving tuition
assistance is pursuing an undergraduate degree, or the subject area
in which the employee receiving loan repayment assistance has
received an undergraduate degree; and
- 13 4. The information submitted pursuant to subsection E of this
section.

15 G. The Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability
16 shall promulgate rules to implement the provisions of this section.

17 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
18 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 698.5 of Title 70, unless there
19 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

20 There is hereby created in the State Treasury a revolving fund
21 for the Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability to be
22 designated the "Grow Your Own Educator Revolving Fund". The fund
23 shall be a continuing fund, not subject to fiscal year limitations,
24 and shall consist of all monies received by the Commission for

1 Educational Quality and Accountability from legislative
2 appropriations provided for the purpose of implementing the Grow
3 Your Own Educator Program created in Section 1 of this act. All
4 monies accruing to the credit of the fund are hereby appropriated
5 and may be budgeted and expended by the Commission for the purpose
6 provided for in this section. Expenditures from the fund shall be
7 made upon warrants issued by the State Treasurer against claims
8 filed as prescribed by law with the Director of the Office of
9 Management and Enterprise Services for approval and payment.

10 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective July 1, 2025.

11 SECTION 4. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
12 of the public peace, health, or safety, an emergency is hereby
13 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
14 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

15 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
March 5, 2025 - DO PASS