

1 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION**

2 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

3 1st Session of the 60th Legislature (2025)

4 ENGROSSED SENATE
5 BILL NO. 235

6 By: Pugh of the Senate

7 and

8 Kerbs of the House

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

13 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:**

14 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
15 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 698.4 of Title 70, unless there
16 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 1. A status update on the progress the employee receiving
2 tuition assistance is making in the teacher preparation program in
3 which he or she is enrolled; or

4 2. The employment status of the employee receiving loan
5 repayment assistance.

6 F. By December 31, 2026, and each December 31 thereafter, the
7 Office of Educational Quality and Accountability shall
8 electronically submit a report to the Governor, the President Pro
9 Tempore of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of
10 Representatives that includes:

11 1. The school district matching fund grant recipients;

12 2. The amount of matching fund grants allocated to each
13 recipient;

14 3. The subject area in which the employee receiving tuition
15 assistance is pursuing an undergraduate degree, or the subject area
16 in which the employee receiving loan repayment assistance has
17 received an undergraduate degree; and

18 4. The information submitted pursuant to subsection E of this
19 section.

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

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

1 There is hereby created in the State Treasury a revolving fund
2 for the Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability to be
3 designated the "Grow Your Own Educator Revolving Fund". The fund
4 shall be a continuing fund, not subject to fiscal year limitations,
5 and shall consist of all monies received by the Commission for
6 Educational Quality and Accountability from legislative
7 appropriations provided for the purpose of implementing the Grow
8 Your Own Educator Program created in Section 1 of this act. All
9 monies accruing to the credit of the fund are hereby appropriated
10 and may be budgeted and expended by the Commission for the purpose
11 provided for in this section. Expenditures from the fund shall be
12 made upon warrants issued by the State Treasurer against claims
13 filed as prescribed by law with the Director of the Office of
14 Management and Enterprise Services for approval and payment.

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

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

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21 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS AND BUDGET, dated
04/17/2025 - DO PASS, As Amended.
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