

Please complete this form in accordance with the process instructions.

Agency/Point of Contact: MDE

Title of Request: Education Staffing Support Package

Date: 1/21/2022 **Request Amount:** \$ 754,000

Expenditure Time Period: 2/1/2022 to 6/30/2023 (no later than 6/30/2023)

Brief Summary of Request: (Summary must be complete on this page with supporting information attached)

School districts and charter schools are experiencing unprecedented staffing issues while trying to balance maintaining education and student support services with the health and safety of students and staff. There is a need for additional substitute teachers, full-time licensed teachers, paraprofessionals, and bus drivers across the state. This multi-prong approach seeks to support shortages in each of those areas.

Coupled with policy changes to bring more substitute teachers into the available pool, \$144,000 will provide the Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board (PELSB) with resources to be able to facilitate increased applications in a timely manner. \$100,000 will fund additional staffing resources to receive, process, and approve applications within the 5-day window required in accompanying policy language, and \$44,000 will fund the system and technology changes necessary to allow for the temporary changes to licensure requirements also in the accompanying policy language.

Teacher exams and first teacher licenses can be cost prohibitive for newly graduated teachers. \$455,000 would fully fund the costs of the Minnesota Teacher Licensure Exam (MTLE) and First Professional Teacher License for all 700 of the Fall 2021 College of Education graduates. The MTLE cost for basic skills test and content test is estimated at \$500; the First Professional Teacher License is \$150.

Paraprofessionals play a critical role in supporting student learning. Supporting paraprofessionals is key to supporting students. The ParaPro Assessment measures paraprofessional skills and knowledge in reading, math, and writing, along with the ability to apply those skills to assist in classroom instruction. Staff who have ParaPro certification are often paid a higher wage and can also teach in Title I classrooms. At an approximate cost between \$55 and \$91 per exam depending on location, \$100,000 will provide the ParaPro Assessment to between 1,100 and 1,800 prospective and practicing paraprofessionals.

School bus drivers play the critical role of transporting students from home to school daily. Shortages lead to disrupted bus routes. \$55,000 would pay for the Commercial Driver's License exam fee and School Bus endorsement for 1,000 prospective school bus drivers at a cost of \$55 per individual.

Heather Mueller Digitally signed by Heather Mueller
Date: 2022.02.01 15:24:12 -06'00'

Department Head Signature

2/1/2022

Date