



Teacher Recruitment and Retention Act - [Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-8,111 to 118](#)

Purpose: Pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-8,112, the purpose of the Teacher Recruitment and Retention Act is to provide financial incentives to recruit and retain teachers in Nebraska classrooms.

Definitions: For purposes of the Teacher Recruitment and Retention Act:

- Teacher means an individual who:
 - (a) Holds a valid Nebraska teaching certificate,
 - (b) Is employed in Nebraska for the instruction of students in elementary or high school grades, and
 - (c) Pursuant to [Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-101](#) (12), to teach means and includes, but not limited to, the following responsibilities: (a) The organization and management of the classroom or the physical area in which the learning experiences of pupils take place; (b) the assessment and diagnosis of the individual educational needs of the pupils; (c) the planning, selecting, organizing, prescribing, and directing of the learning experiences of pupils; (d) the planning of teaching strategies and the selection of available materials and equipment to be used; and (e) the evaluation and reporting of student progress.
- Full-time employment means employment equivalent to 1.0 FTE under one or more teaching contracts with an approved or accredited Nebraska school.
- Nebraska school means any approved or accredited school in Nebraska.
- Elementary grades mean grades kindergarten through eighth, as defined in 79-101 (5).
- High school grades mean all grades above the eighth grade, as defined in 79-101 (6).

- Retention grant means a grant award of \$2,500 for classroom teachers in their second, fourth, or sixth year of teaching. This is for total years of service anywhere in the U.S.
- High-needs grant means a grant award of \$5,000 if on or after June 2, 2023, a classroom teacher obtains an endorsement in the areas of special education, mathematics, science, technology or teaches at least one dual-enrollment course during the 2026-27 school year.
- Dual-enrollment means a course taught to students for credit at both a high school and a post-secondary institution.
- Award year means the school year for which an application is submitted, as specified in 79-8,114. For the retention grant, the award years are 2023-24, 2024-25, 2025-26, or 2026-27. For the high-needs grant, the award years are 2024-25, 2025-26, or 2026-27.

Application Process

- Application: To be considered for this grant program, an eligible applicant must complete the application form by the deadline. Applicants will be selected on a first-come-first-serve basis. If selected, then an applicant will need to submit all necessary documentation. The application can be found on this page: [Teacher Recruitment and Retention Act – Nebraska Department of Education](#)
- Eligibility
 - To be eligible for the \$2,500 retention grant, the applicant must be a classroom teacher in their second, fourth, or sixth year of teaching. The year of teaching is determined by the total years of experience.
 - To be eligible for the \$5,000 high-needs recruitment grant, the applicant must have obtained an endorsement in the areas of special education, mathematics, science, or technology (the applicant must also have a contract to teach full-time in the endorsement area) on or after **June 2, 2023**, or teach at least one dual-enrollment course during the 2026-27 school year.
- Distribution: Grant funds are sent directly to selected applicants. If selected, applicants will be required to complete additional documentation.

The Nebraska Teacher Recruitment and Retention Act terminates on January 1, 2028.