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H.P. 315

House of Representatives, January 29, 2019

An Act To Establish Regional School Leadership Academies

Reference to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

Handwritten signature of Robert B. Hunt in cursive.

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative KORNFIELD of Bangor.
Cosponsored by Senator MILLETT of Cumberland and
Representatives: DAUGHTRY of Brunswick, DODGE of Belfast, DUNPHY of Old Town,
FARNSWORTH of Portland, MASTRACCIO of Sanford, PIERCE of Falmouth, SCHNECK
of Bangor, Senator: POULIOT of Kennebec.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §2651, sub-§2**, as amended by PL 2015, c. 251, §4, is
3 further amended to read:

4 **2. Use of fund.** The department shall award grants from the fund to school
5 administrative units, municipalities, counties and groups of 2 or more such entities,
6 including such groups that have entered into a collaborative agreement pursuant to
7 chapter 114, to fund the costs of implementing changes in governance, administrative
8 structures or policies that result in the creation of consolidated school administrative
9 units; purchasing alliances; innovative, autonomous public schools, teacher-led schools,
10 innovative public school districts or innovative public school zones; regional delivery of
11 collaborative programs and educational services; regional school leadership academies;
12 or collaborations of municipal-school service delivery or support systems, with the
13 purpose of improving educational opportunity and student achievement. Grants must be
14 used to implement changes that will be sustained by the school administrative unit,
15 municipality or county without the need for additional grants from the fund or other
16 sources.

17 **Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §2651, sub-§2**, as amended by PL 2017, c. 284, Pt.
18 VVVVV, §5 and affected by §14, is further amended to read:

19 **2. Use of fund.** The department shall award grants from the fund to school
20 administrative units, municipalities, counties and groups of 2 or more such entities to
21 fund the costs of implementing changes in governance, administrative structures or
22 policies that result in the creation of consolidated school administrative units; purchasing
23 alliances; innovative, autonomous public schools, teacher-led schools, innovative public
24 school districts or innovative public school zones; regional delivery of collaborative
25 programs and educational services; regional school leadership academies; or
26 collaborations of municipal-school service delivery or support systems, with the purpose
27 of improving educational opportunity and student achievement. Grants must be used to
28 implement changes that will be sustained by the school administrative unit, municipality
29 or county without the need for additional grants from the fund or other sources.

30 **Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §3801, sub-§4, ¶K**, as enacted by PL 2017, c. 284, Pt.
31 VVVVV, §6, is repealed.

32 **Sec. 4. 20-A MRSA §3807**, as enacted by PL 2017, c. 284, Pt. VVVVV, §6, is
33 repealed.

34 **Sec. 5. 20-A MRSA c. 502-C** is enacted to read:

35 **CHAPTER 502-C**

36 **REGIONAL SCHOOL LEADERSHIP ACADEMIES**

1 **§13111. Definitions**

2 As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms
3 have the following meanings.

4 **1. Collaborative agreement.** "Collaborative agreement" means an agreement for
5 shared staff or staff training, including collaborative programs and support services for
6 preservice and in-service staff training between 2 or more school administrative units to
7 form a collaborative partnership that specifies each school administrative unit's
8 responsibility for and cost of the delivery of certain administrative, instructional and
9 noninstructional functions, including collaborative programs and support services, for
10 preservice and in-service staff training for school principalship and other school
11 leadership positions over a 3-year period.

12 **2. Collaborative board.** "Collaborative board" means a board created pursuant to
13 section 13112, subsection 2. A collaborative board is composed of one representative
14 from each of the:

15 A. School administrative units participating in the collaborative partnership;

16 B. Statewide education associations cooperating with the collaborative partnership;
17 and

18 C. Educator preparation programs cooperating with the collaborative partnership.

19 **3. Collaborative partnership.** "Collaborative partnership" means a regional school
20 leadership academy collaborative partnership formed pursuant to this chapter between 2
21 or more school administrative units and, whenever possible, with educator preparation
22 programs and statewide education associations that provides cohort-based professional
23 development and career pathways, including preservice training for prospective
24 candidates for school principalship and other school leadership positions and in-service
25 training for new employees in school principalship and other school leadership positions.

26 **4. Educator preparation program.** "Educator preparation program" means an
27 educator preparation program as defined in section 13001-A, subsection 9.

28 **5. Regional school leadership academy.** "Regional school leadership academy" or
29 "academy" means a professional development consortium formed by a collaborative
30 partnership that combines state and local programs and resources, including the
31 preparation, licensure, certification, professional development and training for
32 educational leadership, into a coherent system that can significantly improve the
33 recruitment and preparation of prospective candidates for school principalship and other
34 school leadership positions, as well as the induction, mentoring and retention of
35 principals and school leaders during the first 2 years of employment in their school
36 leadership positions.

37 **6. Statewide education association.** "Statewide education association" means a
38 nonprofit education association or corporation in the State, including a principals
39 association, a school superintendents association, a school boards association and an
40 association of administrators of services for children with disabilities.

1 **§13112. Establishment**

2 Beginning July 1, 2020, a regional school leadership academy may be established
3 under a collaborative agreement.

4 **1. Regional school leadership academy mission.** The mission of an academy is to
5 enhance the quality of the preservice and in-service staff training programs for school
6 principalship and other school leadership positions, to improve the distribution, supply
7 and quality of school leadership personnel in underserved school administrative units in
8 the State and to develop appropriate professional development pathways at participating
9 schools in the academy. To fulfill its mission, the academy shall work in coordination
10 with educational leadership mentors and coaches and with high-performing educational
11 leaders employed within the collaborative partnership.

12 **2. Development of collaborative agreements; establishment of collaborative**
13 **board.** School administrative units may work in cooperation with educator preparation
14 programs and statewide education associations to design a plan for a collaborative
15 agreement that achieves efficiencies and reduces costs in the delivery of programs and
16 support services for preservice and in-service staff training for educators, principals and
17 other school leaders. School administrative units that work in cooperation with educator
18 preparation programs and statewide education associations to design a plan for a
19 collaborative agreement shall establish a collaborative board. A collaborative board is
20 the governing body of a regional school leadership academy. The plan for the
21 collaborative agreement must be consistent with the following goals:

22 A. Improving student learning and development by providing preparation, training
23 and support for educators, principals and other school leaders that enable students in
24 their schools to graduate ready for college and careers;

25 B. Identifying and recruiting prospective candidates for school principalship and
26 other school leadership positions;

27 C. Improving recruitment strategies, including contracting with a marketing or
28 branding firm to build recruitment strategies that coach school administrators how to
29 make effective proposals to prospective candidates that would entice them to consider
30 becoming a principal or school leader;

31 D. Establishing and maintaining long-term partnerships with school administrative
32 units in the region that create and maintain a skilled and adaptable school
33 principalship and school leadership preparation program;

34 E. Enhancing the recruitment, preservice training, education and preparation
35 opportunities for educators in this State to allow them to prepare for future school
36 principalship and other school leadership positions in schools in the State;

37 F. Providing educators in this State who seek to upgrade their education, skills and
38 credentials in order to facilitate their career advancement and enhance their job
39 security;

40 G. Establishing, at a minimum, 2 years of programming to support the
41 implementation of school leadership induction and mentoring programs that promote
42 excellence in school leadership, improve classroom instruction, enhance student

1 achievement, build a supportive environment within school administrative units,
2 increase the retention of promising school leaders and promote the personal and
3 professional well-being of school leaders;

4 H. Creating and promoting a selection process for mentors that enhances the support
5 for newly hired principals and other school leaders; and

6 I. Creating a budget to provide resources for the academy's programs, collaborative
7 organizational structures and program evaluation and a plan for the academy's
8 sustainability.

9 **3. Approval.** The collaborative agreement plan under subsection 2 must be
10 approved by the collaborative board before the collaborative agreement becomes
11 effective.

12 **4. State assistance.** The department and the state board may provide the following
13 services and resources to assist school administrative units that form a regional school
14 leadership academy:

15 A. Guidance to help school administrative units create the supports and conditions to
16 promote professional development of their own leadership;

17 B. Facilitation of partnerships between state education policy officials from the
18 department and the state board and education leadership professionals, educator
19 preparation programs and statewide education associations to enhance the promotion
20 of collaborative partnerships; and

21 C. Assistance and resources to regional school leadership academies to encourage
22 teachers and educators to become candidates for school leadership positions; to
23 provide pathways for aspiring candidates to explore, study, practice and take on
24 leadership roles in their schools; and to employ mentors and coaches to provide
25 training for newly hired school principals and school leaders that improves their
26 awareness of standards-based instruction and learning and develops their leadership
27 skills. Beginning in fiscal year 2020-21, the department shall consider providing the
28 following resources:

29 (1) Awarding state grant funds from the Fund for the Efficient Delivery of
30 Educational Services pursuant to chapter 114-A for academies that apply and
31 qualify for such grants; and

32 (2) Allocating state funding pursuant to section 15688-A, subsection 9 to school
33 administrative units that form a regional school leadership academy.

34 **5. Gifts, grants and donations.** School administrative units that enter into a
35 collaborative agreement to form a regional school leadership academy may seek and
36 accept public and private gifts, grants and donations to offset the costs of developing and
37 implementing the collaborative agreement plan under subsection 2 for the regional school
38 leadership academy. A gift, grant or donation received pursuant to this subsection must
39 be approved prior to the receipt of the gift, grant or donation by the school boards for the
40 school administrative units that enter into the collaborative agreement.

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§13113. Report

A regional school leadership academy shall provide to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters an annual report that includes information regarding the regional school leadership academy, including the name and location of the academy; the number of educators trained, mentored and coached; the dollar amount expended; and, if applicable, the number of educators who were employed as principals or other school leaders.

Sec. 6. 20-A MRSA §15683-C, sub-§2, ¶B, as enacted by PL 2017, c. 284, Pt. VVVVV, §10, is amended to read:

- B. Category 2, education support services, including the following services:
 - (1) Substitute teachers and staff augmentation;
 - (2) Technology and technology support;
 - (3) Staff training and professional development;
 - (4) ~~Regional school leadership academies;~~
 - (5) Shared support services programs; and
 - (6) Shared extracurricular or cocurricular programs.

Sec. 7. 20-A MRSA §15688-A, sub-§9 is enacted to read:

9. Regional school leadership academy. Beginning in fiscal year 2020-21, the commissioner may expend and disburse funds to support the establishment of regional school leadership academies pursuant to chapter 502-C.

Sec. 8. 20-A MRSA §15689-A, sub-§27, as enacted by PL 2017, c. 284, Pt. VVVVV, §12, is repealed.

Sec. 9. Effective date. That section of this Act that amends the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 2651, subsection 2, as amended by Public Law 2017, chapter 284, Pt. VVVVV, section 5 and affected by section 14 takes effect June 30, 2020.

SUMMARY

This bill allows school administrative units to enter into collaborative agreements to establish regional school leadership academies that combine state and local programs and resources, including the preparation, licensure, certification, professional development and training for educational leadership, into a coherent system that can significantly improve the recruitment and preparation of prospective candidates for school principalship and other school leadership positions, as well as the induction, mentoring and retention of principals and school leaders during the first 2 years of employment in their school leadership positions. The bill repeals provisions in current law regarding regional school leadership academies.