



## Guidance for Paraprofessionals on SB 2032 – Para-to-Teacher Program

This guidance is intended to provide critical information on how the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction (NDDPI) intends to distribute funding authorized in SB 2032. Carefully review the information below to understand how this program will be rolled out.

- The 2023 ND Legislative Session passed SB 2032, which provides \$3 million in funding to the NDDPI to continue the Para-to-Teacher Program, also known as the Grow-Your-Own (GYO) Program.
- Eligible educator preparation providers (EPPs) had to apply to be part of the SB 2032 program. The following EPPs were approved:
  - ✓ Certification Central
  - ✓ Dickinson State University
  - ✓ Mayville State University
  - ✓ Minot State University
  - ✓ North Dakota State University
  - ✓ Sitting Bull College
  - ✓ University of Mary
  - ✓ University of North Dakota
  - ✓ Valley City State University
  - ✓ Western Governors University
- SB 2032 funding can only be used for student tuition scholarships. Paraprofessionals are responsible for any additional fees and books.
- The NDDPI has calculated a maximum per pupil amount to be awarded that all EPPs will use to request reimbursement costs, which is \$360 per credit. The total maximum amount that can be awarded to any applicant is capped at \$20,000.
- The amount of tuition per credit varies by EPP. Applicants need to carefully review the individual EPP per-pupil rates on the [NDDPI website](#) under the *per-pupil tuition fees* heading to determine the amount to request for a tuition scholarship, remembering that the maximum amount per credit is \$360. If you select a university with a higher per-credit cost, you will need to cover the overage.
- Funding will be distributed on a reimbursement basis to selected EPPs on the NDDPI-approved list. No funding is distributed to paraprofessionals.

- The tuition scholarships will be approved in the order they are received until the funds run out or through June 30, 2025.
- After visiting with legislative leaders to determine the legislative intent for the process and use of these funds, it was determined that the NDDPI would use a model of disbursement that honors the “follow the student” approach to disseminating the funding, meaning that eligible students will select the eligible EPP they want to attend from an approved list that meets all the state’s requirements.
- The scholarship funding is available to paraprofessionals working in a North Dakota school who want to pursue a North Dakota teaching license.
- Paraprofessionals working in a North Dakota school wishing to participate will submit an application to the NDDPI. The application is available on the [NDDPI website](#).
- Paraprofessionals working in a North Dakota school will select an eligible EPP from a state-approved list.
- On the [SB 2032 website](#), there is a list of all eligible EPPs, along with the programs they offer and contact information for each university, in case you have questions.
- This funding is only available through June 30, 2025. Paraprofessionals who don’t complete the required courses for a North Dakota teaching license by this date will be responsible for costs incurred after this timeframe.
- Paraprofessionals must include a letter of recommendation from their administrator and have the administrator sign the application.
- The NDDPI is funding multiple GYO programs. Double-dipping by students is not allowed. The teacher candidate cannot receive funds from different grant sources for the same expenditures.
- The legislative intent is to provide state funding to increase the teaching workforce in North Dakota. Applicants should only apply if they intend to remain in North Dakota and work as a licensed teacher.
- There are no requirements for working as a paraprofessional for a certain length of time before being eligible to apply. You are eligible for the program if you are a paraprofessional working in a North Dakota school.
- The North Dakota State Legislature funded this program through June 30, 2025. Paraprofessionals who cannot complete their coursework by that date will be responsible for the costs after that timeframe.
- Individuals working at least 50% of the school day as paraprofessionals are eligible for a tuition scholarship.

- Interested applicants must work with the university of their choice to ensure that any financial aid is utilized first and deducted from the amount requested in a tuition scholarship.
- Interested applicants need to first reach out to the university of their choice to discuss their situation before applying so they know how many credits they need and can accurately fill out the application.
- This program is to help interested paraprofessionals obtain their bachelor's degree to teach in North Dakota. You may not apply for a scholarship to obtain a master's degree.
- Not all university programs qualify for the scholarship. Visit [www.nd.gov/dpi/educators/grow-your-own/state-programs](http://www.nd.gov/dpi/educators/grow-your-own/state-programs) to see a list of the approved educator preparation providers (EPPs). Click on the drop-down list for the university of your choice to see the pathway programs approved for the SB 2032 Tuition Scholarship.
- The completed application and letter of recommendation from the school administrator should be emailed to [dpiasstsupt@nd.gov](mailto:dpiasstsupt@nd.gov).
- Applicants who need to withdraw from the program need to contact Laurie Matzke at [dpiasstsupt@nd.gov](mailto:dpiasstsupt@nd.gov) so these funds can be redistributed.
- Questions on the SB 2032 Para-to-Teacher program can be directed to:  
Laurie Matzke  
Assistant Superintendent  
NDDPI  
[lmatzke@nd.gov](mailto:lmatzke@nd.gov)  
(701) 328-2284