

Guidance for EPPs
State Para-to-Teacher Program (PTP)
May 2025 – June 2027

This guidance is intended to provide EPPs with critical information and guidance on how the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction (NDDPI) intends to distribute funding for the State Para-to-Teacher (PTP) program. Please carefully review the details below to understand the rollout process.

Program Overview

- The 2025 North Dakota Legislative Session has again allocated \$3 million to NDDPI to continue the State Para-to-Teacher Program.
- 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 as a licensed teacher.

Educator Preparation Provider (EPP) Participation

- Eligible Educator Preparation Providers (EPPs) will complete an “Intent to Participate” application.
- The NDDPI will publish a list of approved EPPs for this program on our PTP [website](#).
- EPP eligibility includes:
 - ✓ Being a North Dakota-approved or recognized EPP.
 - ✓ Providing graduating students with a ND teaching license.
 - ✓ Offering a NDDPI-approved para-to-teacher pathway program.
- The NDDPI will again complete Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with all approved EPPs to provide reimbursement funding.
- EPPs new to PTP work will be eligible for \$20,000 in program start-up and administrative costs, as outlined in SB 2032.

Scholarship Funding Details

- Except for the \$20,000 for start-up costs, this funding can only be used for student tuition scholarships.
- Funding will continue to be distributed on a reimbursement basis to EPPs through WebGrants.

- A per-credit amount which varies by university will be used by EPPs to request reimbursement costs. The maximum per-credit amount for 2025-26 school year is \$370 and \$380 for 2026-27 school year. This information will be available on our [website](#).
- Previously, the PTP scholarship was a “last dollar” award, applied after other financial aid and scholarships. Moving forward, PTP funding will be a “first dollar” award, allowing the scholarship to be included in students' overall financial aid package. This ensures tuition is covered while enabling other aid to address additional costs like room, board, and books—critical for teacher education program participants.
 - ✓ Paraprofessionals can only choose a degree or pathway that has been approved for the PTP program as listed on the [website](#). Click on each university to see the list of approved pathways.
 - ✓ Scholarship amounts will not exceed the student’s tuition charges per semester.
 - ✓ Scholarships will be included in the student's financial aid package and applied to their campus account per financial aid regulations and timelines.
 - ✓ The total aid package, including the scholarship, will not exceed the student’s cost of attendance.

Application Process & Eligibility

- The scholarship funding is available to paraprofessionals working in a North Dakota school who wish to pursue a North Dakota teaching license.
- Paraprofessionals working in a North Dakota school wanting to participate will apply to NDDPI beginning in June of 2025.
- Paraprofessionals must include a letter of recommendation from their administrator, along with their application.
- Paraprofessionals can request a scholarship starting with the Fall 2025 semester through the Spring 2027 semester.
- Paraprofessionals working in a North Dakota school will select an eligible EPP from the state-approved list.
- The maximum scholarship amount per applicant is \$20,000.
- Paraprofessional applications will be approved on a first-come, first-served basis until the funds are exhausted or until June 30, 2027.

Additional Requirements & Limitations

- This funding is only available through June 30, 2027. Paraprofessionals who do not complete the required courses for a North Dakota teaching license by this date will be responsible for costs incurred afterward, unless the 2027 Legislative Session appropriates additional funding.

- Scholarship funds may not be used to pursue a master's degree. This program is designed to help paraprofessionals earn a bachelor's degree to teach in North Dakota.