

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

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This guidance provides critical information 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 scholarship funding is available to paraprofessionals working in a North Dakota school who wish to pursue a North Dakota teaching license.
- Ten universities are participating in this program. Paraprofessionals may select the university of their choice.

### **Scholarship Funding Details**

- State PTP funding is strictly designated for student tuition scholarships.
- Funding is reimbursed directly to universities through WebGrants; paraprofessionals will not receive funding directly.
- 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 part of 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.
  - ✓ Scholarship amounts cannot exceed a total of \$20,000 per student.
  - ✓ The per-credit amount varies by university. This information is available on our [website](#).
  - ✓ 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 in accordance with financial aid regulations and timelines.
  - ✓ The total aid package, including the scholarship, will not exceed the student’s cost of attendance.
  - ✓ Tuition rates vary by university. Paraprofessionals should consult the contact person at their selected university and refer to tuition details on the NDDPI website.

### **Application Process & Eligibility**

- Paraprofessionals working in a North Dakota school may apply to NDDPI for a scholarship.

- Paraprofessionals working in a North Dakota school wishing to participate will apply to NDDPI beginning in June of 2025.
- Eligible paraprofessionals must choose a university from the state-approved Education Preparation Provider (EPP) list.
- 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.
- Paraprofessional applications will be approved on a first-come, first-served basis until funds are depleted or until June 30, 2027.
- Applicants must include a letter of recommendation from their administrator with their application.
- The legislative intent is to increase the teaching workforce in North Dakota. Applicants should only apply if they intend to remain in the state as licensed teachers.

### **Additional Requirements & Limitations**

- 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.
- 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 any costs incurred thereafter, unless additional funding is allocated in the 2027 Legislative Session.