



Guidance 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) will apply to be part of the SB 2032 program. The NDDPI will publish a list of approved EPPs for this program on our GYO website. EPP eligibility includes:
 - ✓ A North Dakota-approved or recognized EPP.
 - ✓ An EPP providing graduating students with an initial ND teaching license.
 - ✓ An EPP with an NDDPI-approved para-to-teacher program.
- The NDDPI will complete memorandums of understanding (MOUs) with all approved EPPs.
- EPPs new to para-to-teacher work will be eligible for \$20,000 program “start-up and other administrative costs,” as outlined in SB 2032.
- Other than the \$20,000 for start-up costs, SB 2032 funding can only be used for student tuition scholarships.
- After all participating EPPs provide information, the NDDPI will calculate a uniform per-pupil amount that all EPPs will use to request reimbursement costs. The EPP cannot receive funds per student for more than the total tuition amount.
- The reimbursements will be fulfilled in the order they are received until the funds run out or through June 30, 2025.
- Funding will be distributed on a reimbursement basis to EPPs through WebGrants. EPPs not yet registered in WebGrants will need to register.
- 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 apply to the NDDPI in the fall of 2023.
- Paraprofessionals working in a North Dakota school will select an eligible EPP from a state-approved list.
- 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.
- 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 as a licensed teacher.