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To: North Dakota Teacher Preparation Programs  
From: Laurie Matzke, Assistant Superintendent  
Re: SB 2032 (Para-to-Teacher Program)  
Date: July 26, 2023

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During the 68<sup>th</sup> ND Legislative session, the Legislature passed SB 2032, providing the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction (NDDPI) with \$3 million to continue the Para-to-Teacher Program. This correspondence outlines how the department will roll out this initiative and provide an opportunity for eligible teacher preparation programs to apply to be part of this program.

The NDDPI will use a “follow the student” approach to disseminate the funding. Under this approach, eligible paraprofessionals will select the eligible Educator Preparation Program (EPP) they want to attend from an approved drop-down list that meets all the state’s criteria.

The NDDPI currently has four eligible para-to-teacher programs approved. These four EPPs only need to complete the “Intent to Participate” application. All other EPPs wanting to participate in the SB 2032 opportunity must complete both the “Para to Teacher Program Application” and the “Intent to Participate” application. EPPs creating a new eligible para-to-teacher program will also have the opportunity to apply for a \$20,000 start-up grant.

The NDDPI will create an MOU with each approved EPP. As part of the application process, we ask EPPs to provide information on the per-pupil costs for students to attend a semester at each university. The NDDPI will establish a standard per pupil amount for reimbursement purposes.

In August 2023, the NDDPI will disseminate information regarding the SB 2032 opportunity to all North Dakota schools. Paraprofessionals working in a North Dakota school can apply to the NDDPI and select the university of their choice from the approved list of eligible programs. Universities will then request funding for eligible students on a reimbursement basis within the department’s grants management system called WebGrants.

EPPs interested in this work should review the following documents:

- Para-to-Teacher Program Application
- Intent to Participate Application
- SB 2032 Guidance
- Timeline of Events
- Information on WebGrants

If you have questions regarding this information, please don’t hesitate to contact me at [lmatzke@nd.gov](mailto:lmatzke@nd.gov) or (701) 328-2284.