

How Does ESPB Support the Apprenticeship Program?

Joint Boards Meeting
September 22, 2025

Genius Hour

- A monthly after school, non evaluative hour for apprentices from all institutions to join a meeting to discuss and ask questions
- Started last year
- **Topics covered:** beginning of the year ideas, building positive relationships with students, discussing challenges, work/life/school balance, educator ethics, and thinking about being in a leader in whatever context they are in
- Allows apprentices to share common challenges and celebrations

Support With Fees

- ESPB ensures that apprentices have fees waived
- Waived fees include FBI/BCI background check fees, application fees, license fees, and testing fees
- Grant covers these fees
- High level of collaboration between DPI, ESPB, colleges, universities, and the testing company to ensure this occurs

Face to Face Visits

- ESPB staff visits apprentices around the state to provide support and encouragement
- Each month an apprentice is interviewed, and this is published in a DPI newsletter.
- A Fargo apprentice was able to attend a national conference of state directors of teacher education last summer to share her story.
- ESPB and DPI collaborate to tell the story of this positive pathway to becoming a teacher and addressing the shortage. Both agencies present at conferences to share the work and gather information on continuous improvement.

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