

1 ENGROSSED SENATE  
2 BILL NO. 235

By: Pugh of the Senate

3 and

4 Kerbs of the House

5  
6 [ teachers - Program - grant - application - report -  
7 promulgation of rules - fund - codification -  
effective date -

emergency ]

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10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

11 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
12 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 698.4 of Title 70, unless there  
13 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

14 A. As used in this section, "eligible school district" means a  
15 public school district or public school district foundation in this  
16 state that has established a program to provide tuition or loan  
17 repayment assistance to school district employees who pursue an  
18 undergraduate degree from a teacher preparation program accredited  
19 by the Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability leading  
20 to a standard teaching certificate.

21 B. There is hereby created the Grow Your Own Educator Program  
22 to provide matching fund grants to eligible school districts. The  
23 program shall be established and maintained by the Office of  
24 Educational Quality and Accountability.

1 C. An eligible school district seeking to participate in the  
2 Grow Your Own Educator Program shall submit an application in the  
3 manner and on a form prescribed by the Office of Educational Quality  
4 and Accountability. The application shall include:

5 1. The amount of matching fund grants requested;

6 2. The position of the employee pursuing an undergraduate  
7 degree from a teacher preparation program; and

8 3. The subject area in which the employee is pursuing an  
9 undergraduate degree from a teacher preparation program.

10 D. Matching fund grants shall be awarded on a first-come,  
11 first-served basis. Grants shall be provided without any limitation  
12 other than the amount of funds available in the Grow Your Own  
13 Educator Revolving Fund created pursuant to Section 2 of this act  
14 and the number of eligible school districts that apply.

15 E. By June 30, 2026, and each June 30 thereafter, an eligible  
16 school district that receives a matching fund grant pursuant to this  
17 section shall electronically submit a report to the Office of  
18 Educational Quality and Accountability that includes:

19 1. A status update on the progress the employee receiving  
20 tuition assistance is making in the teacher preparation program in  
21 which he or she is enrolled; or

22 2. The employment status of the employee receiving loan  
23 repayment assistance.

1 F. By December 31, 2026, and each December 31 thereafter, the  
2 Office of Educational Quality and Accountability shall  
3 electronically submit a report to the Governor, the President Pro  
4 Tempore of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of  
5 Representatives that includes:

6 1. The school district matching fund grant recipients;

7 2. The amount of matching fund grants allocated to each  
8 recipient;

9 3. The subject area in which the employee receiving tuition  
10 assistance is pursuing an undergraduate degree, or the subject area  
11 in which the employee receiving loan repayment assistance has  
12 received an undergraduate degree; and

13 4. The information submitted pursuant to subsection E of this  
14 section.

15 G. The Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability  
16 shall promulgate rules to implement the provisions of this section.

17 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
18 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 698.5 of Title 70, unless there  
19 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

20 There is hereby created in the State Treasury a revolving fund  
21 for the Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability to be  
22 designated the "Grow Your Own Educator Revolving Fund". The fund  
23 shall be a continuing fund, not subject to fiscal year limitations,  
24 and shall consist of all monies received by the Commission for

1 Educational Quality and Accountability from legislative  
2 appropriations provided for the purpose of implementing the Grow  
3 Your Own Educator Program created in Section 1 of this act. All  
4 monies accruing to the credit of the fund are hereby appropriated  
5 and may be budgeted and expended by the Commission for the purpose  
6 provided for in this section. Expenditures from the fund shall be  
7 made upon warrants issued by the State Treasurer against claims  
8 filed as prescribed by law with the Director of the Office of  
9 Management and Enterprise Services for approval and payment.

10 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective July 1, 2025.

11 SECTION 4. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
12 of the public peace, health, or safety, an emergency is hereby  
13 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and  
14 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

15 Passed the Senate the 25th day of March, 2025.

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Presiding Officer of the Senate

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19 Passed the House of Representatives the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_,  
20 2025.

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Presiding Officer of the House  
of Representatives

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