

AB 364 (Torlakson, 2009) After School Teacher Pipeline Program

Summary: AB 364 aims to broaden and diversify the teacher credential applicant pool and address the teacher shortage by creating a career ladder for after school program instructors through the existing California Paraprofessional Teacher Training Program.

Recent retirement and attrition rates project that California will have to recruit, train, and retain over 100,000 new teachers in the next ten years to off-set the qualified teacher shortage in California's public schools. The Paraprofessional Teacher Training Program (PTTP) was designed as a "home-grown" local career ladder program to help meet teacher supply needs throughout the state. Local programs provide participants with financial assistance to help defray the cost of meeting credential requirements at partner college campuses. Participants work as instructional aides while they complete subject matter requirements and receive assistance in the program through the completion of their professional preparation requirements. This highly successful program helps support skilled, experienced paraprofessionals as they complete a college degree and earn a teaching credential. The PTTP has resulted in over 13,000 new teachers in our state who teach and live in communities with the greatest need.

With the implementation of Prop 49's \$550 million dollar investment in state after school programs in 2006, California increased after school offerings statewide from 1,000 to over 4,000 school sites. Almost 75% of these school sites are in the lowest five deciles, and all the schools are in high poverty communities. With this dramatic increase in programs, there has been an equally dramatic rush to hire qualified individuals to staff these school site programs.

Many of these after school program staff are well suited and well qualified to enter a teacher training program; however, not all are employed by a Local Education Agency (LEA). Under current law, only employees of LEA's are eligible to participate in the PTTP program. This bill would enable after school program employees of a school's partner agencies, such as a city, county, or non-profit organization, to receive this benefit in a pilot.

After school employees are more likely to be representative of the community in which they work. In keeping with the original intent of the PTTP program, providing a career ladder for these after school instructors will diversify the teacher workforce and encourage community members to work in their local schools. Access to the PTTP program will also help promote retention in local after school programs, which suffer from high turn-over, largely due to low pay and a lack of perceived career ladder options.

This bill would create the After School Teacher Pipeline Program pilot at up to three current PTTP programs as a subset of the current PTTP program. This pilot would recruit after school instructors into the PTTP program, using Prop 49 professional development funds to support the pilot and stipends.

Sponsors: Bay Area Partnership for Children & Youth

Status: 2/19/2009

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