



Daytona Regional

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



ADVOCACY IN ACTION

08/23/2022

Governor DeSantis Initiatives-Teacher Recruitment

Governor DeSantis introduced three new initiatives to recruit teachers in Florida this week. The three new proposals will be introduced in the 2023 legislative session, starting in March. The goal of the initiatives will be to increase new teachers in Florida.

The first initiative will be to increase Florida's teachers with military veterans. The program is known as the Military Veterans Certification Pathway. The Military Veterans Certification Pathway will allow Florida veterans to receive a 5-year temporary teaching certificate while earning their bachelor's degree. Four years of active duty military service with an honorable or medical discharge and at least 60 college credits with a 2.5 GPA are required to participate in the program. The program will also need a passing score on the Florida subject area examination. This initiative will include first responder personnel too. Military veterans and first responders will be able to receive waivers and bonuses. Bonuses will start at \$4,000 and reach \$5,000 for critical shortage areas. The initiative would also extend the waiver of certification exam fees offered to vets and all retired first responders.

The second initiative will be an apprenticeship program that will provide teachers bonuses for mentoring aspiring teachers with an A.S. degree.

The last initiative will be a scholarship program for K-12 teachers interested in teaching dual enrollment courses. It will allow those teachers to earn their Master's while teaching at their current school.

Governor DeSantis Initiatives-Teacher Recruitment

According to the Department of Education, the number of vacancies for teachers needed in Florida for the 2021-22 school year was 9,079. Volusia County is short about 350 teaching positions.

Overview

Bonuses for Retired Military Veterans and Retired First Responders:

- A one-time bonus will apply to retired military veterans and retired first responders who commit to teaching full-time for two years.
- A signing bonus will be issued for teaching in a Florida Department of Education identified as a critical teacher shortage.
- Waivers of certification exam fees will be issued to all retired first responders.

The Teacher Apprenticeship Temporary Certification Pathway:

- This will be Florida's thirteenth different teaching pathway.
- Applicants must have an Associate's degree from an accredited postsecondary institution, a 3.0 cumulative grade point average, and must pass a background check.
- Temporary certificates are good for two years. Team teaching will be required to fulfill the apprentice's on-the-job training component. Individuals will be able to earn a paycheck while working toward their bachelor's degree.
- Mentor teachers must have at least seven years of teaching experience with excellent VAM score ratings or district performance reviews.
- Mentors will be eligible for a bonus after one successful year of the apprenticeship and half after the second year.

The Dual Enrollment Educator Scholarship Program:

- Kindergarten through 12th-grade teachers can earn scholarship funds towards their Master's degree to cover tuition costs and fees. This includes a book stipend each semester.
- Educators who earn their Master's degree can provide dual enrollment coursework directly to high school students. This increases access to dual enrollment in Florida's high schools, particularly in low-moderate income and rural schools.
- Applicants must be accepted into, or currently enrolled in, an approved graduate program in a subject in their certification area and complete their graduate degree within three years of the award.