Overview

Establishes a pilot program to allow five collaborating school districts and public post secondary institutions to offer undergraduate and graduate teacher training opportunities that effectively address the needs of different types of schools, students and teachers.

1  Pilot program to improve teacher training.

Subd. 1. Establishment. Establishes a pilot program to allow school districts and public post secondary institutions to collaborate in offering undergraduate and graduate teacher training opportunities that effectively address the needs of different types of schools, students and teachers.

Subd. 2. Eligibility; program uses; employment terms. (a) Requires a program applicant to be a school district that will use the program to improve teacher education by placing teacher education students in kindergarten through grade 12 classrooms under the supervision of licensed classroom teachers.

(b) Allows each participating district to select a teacher training model that best meets the needs of each educational system or institution, which may include public school educators teaching courses and taking professional development courses or post secondary teachers teaching courses or serving as student mentors. Allows program participants to include parent/community groups, teacher organizations and business groups. Encourages program participants to engage nontraditional students.

(c), (d) and (e) prohibit temporary placements made under this program from having a negative effect on employee benefits.

Subd. 3. Application process. Requires an interested school district to apply to the commissioner and describe how the district will improve teacher education by using technology to provide undergraduate or graduate teacher training opportunities that address the needs of
different types of schools, students and teachers.

**Subd. 4. Program participants; monetary awards.** (a) Requires the commissioner to determine whether section requirements are met, the suitability of a program location, the number of program participants, the positive effect of the existing educational program on elementary and secondary students, whether other organizations are integral participants in the proposed program, and how able an applicant is to provide information to interested districts and institutions when selecting program participants.

(b) Allows the commissioner to select up to five program participants throughout the state for the 1999-2000 school year. Directs the commissioner to provide up to $20,000 in one-time start-up costs to each participating site.

**Subd. 5. Post secondary institution funding.** Requires a participating post-secondary institution to provide the instructional costs of teacher education students and allows the institution to charge tuition.

**Subd. 6. Participants' fees.** Allows a participating school district to charge reasonable fees to teacher education students placed in an elementary or secondary classroom to receive teacher training.

**Subd. 7. Evaluation.** Directs the commissioner to contract with an independent qualified expert to evaluate the program and report to the commissioner and the legislature by 2/15/05.

2 **Appropriation; Department of children, families and learning.**

Subd. 1. Department of children, families and learning. Appropriates money from the general fund to the department of children, families and learning in the fiscal year indicated.

Subd. 2. Start-up costs. Appropriates $100,000 in fiscal year 2000 for participants' one-time start-up costs. Directs the commissioner to award $20,000 to the North Branch school district if it meets the requirements of section 1. Makes the appropriation available until the end of fiscal year 2001.

3 **Effective date.** Makes section 1 immediately effective. Makes section 2 effective July 1, 1999.