Overview

Establishes a rural teacher loan forgiveness program for newly licensed teachers of agricultural education, English as a second language, math, science, technology, world languages and cultures, or special education who teach in a school district located within an economic development region that serves 100 or fewer pupils per grade.

1 Rural teacher loan forgiveness program.
   Subd. 1. Establishment. Establishes a rural teacher loan forgiveness program. Directs the commissioner of children, families and learning to develop application forms and procedures and to administer the program.
   Subd. 2. Eligibility. Makes a post-secondary graduate after January 1, 2000 eligible for the program if the graduate is:
      (1) licensed as a teacher of agricultural education, English as a second language, math, science, technology, world languages and cultures, or special education;
      (2) employed as a teacher by a school district located within an economic development region that serves 100 or fewer pupils per grade; and
      (3) has secured and is responsible for a qualified loan.
   Subd. 3. Qualified loan. Defines a qualified loan to mean government or commercial loans for the actual costs of tuition and education expenses related to the undergraduate education of a licensed teacher.
   Subd. 4. Loan forgiveness. Allows the commissioner to approve loan forgiveness payments for a maximum of 500 eligible rural teachers in each fiscal year. Makes loan repayment amounts the lesser of $2,000 or 20 percent of the outstanding balance of a qualified loan each fiscal year. Limits program participation to five years. Directs the commissioner to prorate the appropriated amount evenly if the total appropriation is insufficient to fully fund all approved applicants.
Appropriation. Appropriates $1,000,000 in fiscal year 2001 to the commissioner for this program.