

16 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

19 "20-4-502. **Definitions.** For the purposes of this part, unless the context requires otherwise, the
20 following definitions apply:

21 (1) "Education cooperative" means a cooperative of Montana public schools as described in 20-7-
22 451.

23 (2) "Educational loans" means all loans made pursuant to a federal loan program, except federal
24 parent loans for undergraduate students (PLUS) loans, as provided in 20 U.S.C. 1078-2.

25 (3) "Federal loan program" means educational loans authorized by 20 U.S.C. 1071, et seq., 20
26 U.S.C. 1087a, et seq., and 20 U.S.C. 1087aa, et seq.

27 (4) "Impacted school" means:

1 with the department of corrections for female, as defined in 1-1-201, youth must be distributed to those facilities
2 by the department of corrections.

3 (d) The quality educator payment for the Montana youth challenge program must be distributed to
4 that program by the department of military affairs.

5 (3) The quality educator payment is calculated as provided in 20-9-306, using the number of full-
6 time equivalent educators, as reported to the superintendent of public instruction for accreditation purposes in
7 the previous school year, each of whom:

8 (a) holds a valid certificate under the provisions of 20-4-106 and is employed by an entity listed in
9 subsection (1) of this section in a position that requires an educator license in accordance with the
10 administrative rules adopted by the board of public education;

11 (b) (i) is a licensed professional under 37-8-405, 37-8-415, 37-11-301, 37-15-301, 37-17-302, 37-
12 24-301, 37-25-302, 37-39-308, 37-39-309, or 37-39-311; and

13 (ii) is employed by an entity listed in subsection (1) to provide services to students; or

14 (c) (i) holds an American Indian language and culture specialist license; and

15 (ii) is employed by an entity listed in subsection (1) to provide services to students in an Indian
16 language immersion program pursuant to Title 20, chapter 7, part 14; or

17 (d) meets the qualifications for educational sign language interpreting established by the board of
18 public education and is employed by an entity listed in subsection (1) to provide educational sign language
19 interpreting for deaf and hard-of-hearing students."

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21 COORDINATION SECTION. SECTION 7. COORDINATION INSTRUCTION. (1) IF BOTH HOUSE BILL NO. 252
22 AND [THIS ACT] ARE PASSED AND APPROVED AND IF HOUSE BILL NO. 252 CONTAINS A SECTION AMENDING 20-9-324,
23 THEN [SECTION 5 OF THIS ACT], AMENDING 20-9-324, IS VOID.

24 (2) IF BOTH HOUSE BILL NO. 252 AND [THIS ACT] ARE PASSED AND APPROVED AND IF HOUSE BILL NO.
25 252 CONTAINS A SECTION AMENDING 20-9-327, THEN [SECTION 6 OF THIS ACT], AMENDING 20-9-327, IS VOID AND THE
26 SECTION IN HOUSE BILL NO. 252 AMENDING 20-9-327 MUST BE AMENDED TO INCLUDE A NEW SUBSECTION (3)(B)(IV)
27 THAT READS AS FOLLOWS:

1 "(iv) IS EMPLOYED BY AN EDUCATIONAL ENTITY LISTED IN SUBSECTION (1) TO PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL SIGN
2 LANGUAGE INTERPRETING FOR DEAF AND HARD-OF-HEARING STUDENTS AND MEETS THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR
3 EDUCATIONAL SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETING ESTABLISHED BY THE BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION."

4 (3) If both House Bill No. 252 and [this act] are passed and approved, then [section 9 of this act] is
5 void and the following must be added to [section 18(2) of House Bill 252], providing a transition section:

6 "(c) The legislature intends that eligible educational sign language interpreters meeting the
7 qualifications of the board of public education and employed by and working at the Montana school for the deaf
8 and blind during the school fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, are included with the quality educator and
9 qualified staff payments distributed in school fiscal years beginning on or after July 1, 2025."

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11 **NEW SECTION. Section 8. Effective date DATES.** (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (2), [THIS
12 ACT] IS EFFECTIVE ON PASSAGE AND APPROVAL.

13 (2) [This act] is [SECTIONS 1 THROUGH 5] ARE effective July 1, 2025.

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15 **NEW SECTION. SECTION 9. APPLICABILITY.** [SECTION 6] APPLIES TO EDUCATIONAL SIGN LANGUAGE
16 INTERPRETERS meeting the qualifications of the board of public education and EMPLOYED by the Montana school
17 for the deaf and blind DURING THE SCHOOL FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2024, AND SUBSEQUENT SCHOOL FISCAL
18 YEARS SO THAT QUALITY EDUCATOR PAYMENTS FOR EDUCATIONAL ENTITIES EMPLOYING EDUCATIONAL SIGN LANGUAGE
19 INTERPRETERS the Montana school for the deaf and blind ARE INCREASED ACCORDINGLY BEGINNING for SCHOOL
20 FISCAL YEAR 2026 years beginning on or after July 1, 2025. [Section 6] applies to the other educational entities
21 listed in [section 6] for school fiscal years beginning on or after July 1, 2026.

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