
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Senator Sasha Renée Pérez, Chair

2025 - 2026 Regular

Bill No: AB 2060 **Hearing Date:** June 17, 2026
Author: Muratsuchi
Version: April 27, 2026
Urgency: No **Fiscal:** Yes
Consultant: Ian Johnson

Subject: Experienced Mentor Teacher Stipend Program.

SUMMARY

This bill, contingent upon an appropriation, establishes the Experienced Mentor Teacher Stipend Program, administered by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC), to provide \$3,000 stipends to experienced mentor teachers who supervise and support teacher candidates completing at least 500 hours of student teaching. The bill requires participating local educational agencies (LEAs) and teacher preparation programs to jointly recruit, select, train, and support mentor teachers, and requires the CTC to annually report to the Legislature on program participation and outcomes.

BACKGROUND

Existing law:

- 1) Establishes the CTC and authorizes it to administer educator preparation and credentialing programs.
- 2) Requires candidates seeking teaching credentials to complete clinical practice and student teaching requirements as part of commission-approved preparation programs.
- 3) Establishes the Student Teacher Stipend Program, administered by the CTC, to provide stipends to eligible teacher candidates completing required clinical practice hours.
- 4) Requires the CTC to administer educator workforce grant and incentive programs intended to address teacher recruitment, preparation, and retention needs.

ANALYSIS

This bill:

- 1) Establishes the Experienced Mentor Teacher Stipend Program, subject to a future legislative appropriation, under the administration of the CTC.

- 2) Declares legislative intent to expand the existing Student Teacher Stipend Program to compensate experienced mentor teachers who provide nonevaluative coaching and support to teacher candidates.
- 3) Requires the CTC to expand its existing online stipend administration system to collect information regarding participating mentor teachers, including credential information, teaching experience and years of service, employing LEAs, schoolsite assignment, and demographic information.
- 4) Requires the CTC, when demand exceeds available funding, to award stipends on a first-come, first-served basis.
- 5) Requires the CTC to allocate funding to LEAs that host student teachers.
- 6) Requires participating LEAs to provide a stipend of \$3,000 to each experienced mentor teacher who mentors a prospective educator completing 500 or more hours of student teaching.
- 7) Requires participating LEAs and CTC-approved teacher preparation programs to jointly establish a mentor teacher recruitment, selection, training, and support process that includes:
 - a) Selection criteria emphasizing exemplary teaching practices.
 - b) A collaborative mentor-candidate matching process.
 - c) At least 10 hours of initial mentor training.
 - d) Ongoing professional learning and support.
 - e) Processes to evaluate and recognize mentor teachers.
- 8) Requires the CTC, beginning January 1 of each year, to report to the Legislature regarding program participation, teacher shortage impacts, and participant demographics.
- 9) Defines an “experienced mentor teacher” as an educator who:
 - a) Holds a clear credential in the subject area of mentorship.
 - b) Has at least three years of teaching experience.
 - c) Has received satisfactory evaluations for the preceding three years.
 - d) Receives mentor-specific training and ongoing professional learning.
 - e) Receives compensation and appropriate release time for mentoring duties.

- 10) Defines participating LEAs to include school districts, county offices of education, charter schools, and other commission-authorized student teaching sites.

STAFF COMMENTS

- 1) ***Need for the bill.*** According to the author, “California continues to face persistent challenges in recruiting and retaining qualified teachers, disproportionately impacting its most vulnerable students. A critical yet under-supported component of the teacher pipeline is the role of experienced classroom teachers who mentor student teacher candidates during clinical practice, often with little or no compensation. Strong mentorship is essential to improving teacher preparedness, increasing retention, and ensuring new teachers are successful in the classroom. AB 2060 establishes the California Teacher Mentor Grant Program to compensate mentor teachers who support teacher preparation, helping improve long-term retention and strengthen the state’s educator workforce.”
- 2) ***Building upon recent investments in the teacher pipeline.*** Over the last several years, there has been increasing focus on reducing financial and structural barriers that discourage prospective educators from entering the profession. Most recently, the 2025 Budget Act established the Student Teacher Stipend Program, providing substantial financial support to credential candidates completing required clinical practice experiences. This bill seeks to address another component of the teacher preparation pipeline by recognizing the role that experienced classroom teachers play in supporting and developing future educators.

Clinical practice is widely regarded as one of the most influential components of teacher preparation. The quality of the mentor teacher assigned to a candidate can shape instructional practice, classroom management skills, and ultimately a candidate’s decision to remain in the profession. By providing a stipend and establishing expectations for mentor selection and training, this bill seeks to strengthen the clinical experience while complementing the state’s recent investment in student teacher stipends.
- 3) ***Mentor teachers are essential but often uncompensated.*** Teacher preparation programs depend heavily on experienced classroom teachers who open their classrooms to credential candidates and provide ongoing coaching, feedback, and support. Despite the significance of this responsibility, mentor teachers frequently receive little or no compensation for the additional time and expertise required. Induction mentors commonly receive stipends ranging from approximately \$1,500 to \$2,500, while compensation for student teacher mentors is far less consistent. This bill would establish a statewide framework providing a \$3,000 stipend for mentors supporting candidates completing extensive student teaching requirements.

The bill also goes beyond simply providing compensation by requiring participating LEAs and preparation programs to jointly develop mentor recruitment, training, and support structures. These requirements reflect a

recognition that effective mentorship depends not only on financial incentives but also on careful mentor selection and preparation.

- 4) ***Program effectiveness will depend on future appropriations and implementation.*** The bill establishes a new program but does not provide funding. Participation is expressly contingent upon a future legislative appropriation. According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee, fully funding the program could create Proposition 98 cost pressures in the tens of millions of dollars annually, depending on participation levels, while also requiring additional administrative resources for the CTC.

As a result, the practical impact of this measure will depend largely on future budget decisions. If funded, the program could become a significant complement to the Student Teacher Stipend Program by supporting both sides of the clinical practice relationship—the teacher candidate and the mentor teacher. The annual reporting requirements included in the bill may also provide information regarding whether the program contributes to broader educator workforce goals, including teacher recruitment, preparation, and retention.

SUPPORT

Association of California School Administrators
California Teachers Association

OPPOSITION

None received

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