

Senate Education Package

Over \$700 million for Education

The Senate is proposing the single largest appropriations increase to education in history with the passage of HB 1935 and HB 2775.

HB 1935 will give parents additional options and control over their children's education by providing a \$100 million investment in school choice. This bill provides a \$7,500 tax credit per eligible student each tax year if the eligible student attends a private school and the family has an income of less than \$250,000. The bill also provides for a \$1,000 tax credit per family, for certain qualified expenditures, each tax year if one or more eligible students is homeschooled. Valid receipts must be provided to OTC to receive the \$1,000 tax credit.

HB 2775 appropriates \$500,000,000 to the State Board of Education for the purpose of providing Oklahoma teachers a pay raise for the first time since 2019 as well as increasing the State Aid Formula.

Each teacher will receive the following raise:

- \$3,000 for 0-4 years of service
- \$4,000 for 5-9 years of service
- \$5,000 for 10-14 years of service
- \$6,000 for 15 or more years of service

HB 2775 will also appropriate \$30 million for the creation of the Rewarding Excellent Educators Grant Program. This program will provide grant funds to school districts to implement qualitative bonus pay plans for eligible teachers and eligible support employees.

Other Senate education measures sent to the House include:

- \$16.5 million for eight weeks of paid maternity leave for teachers who become new mothers
- \$41 million for the Oklahoma Teacher Corps Program which will aid schools by paying for tuition and fees for students who agree to teach for four years in a Title I School
- \$1.6 million for a teacher mentorship program, providing mentor teachers with a \$500 annual stipend
- A pilot program to provide on-site childcare services to specific districts, contracted childcare to the district, or to provide stipends to employees to help cover childcare costs
- \$20 million for school safety and security. Schools will be able to undergo a risk and vulnerability assessment to enable schools to have the best plan in place to protect their children
- Providing additional funding to school districts dedicated to pay for additional certifications and credentials for teachers