

## 6-306.

(a) ~~In this section, "county grant for national certification" means an annual grant distributed to a teacher certified by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards established:~~

- (1) ~~Outside of the collective bargaining process; or~~
- (2) ~~As part of a collective bargaining agreement with the local employee organization.~~

(b) (1) ~~For fiscal year 2000 and each subsequent fiscal year, the Governor shall include in each year's operating budget funding for the stipends and bonuses provided in this subsection.~~

(2) ~~A classroom teacher who holds a standard professional certificate or an advanced professional certificate who is employed by a county board and who holds a certificate issued by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards shall receive a stipend from the State in an amount equal to the county grant for national certification, up to a maximum of \$2,000 per qualified teacher.~~

(3) (i) ~~An individual who graduates from an accredited institution of higher education in the top 10% of his or her class SHALL RECEIVE A SALARY SIGNING BONUS OF \$3,000 AT THE TIME THAT THE INDIVIDUAL SIGNS A WRITTEN COMMITMENT TO ACCEPT EMPLOYMENT BY A COUNTY BOARD BEFORE TAKING THE TEACHER CERTIFICATION EXAMINATION REQUIRED BY THE STATE, IF THE INDIVIDUAL:~~

1. ~~ENROLLS FOR THE TEACHER CERTIFICATION EXAMINATION;~~
2. ~~PASSES THE EXAMINATION;~~
3. ~~SUBSEQUENTLY[,] becomes employed by a county board[,] and~~
4. ~~[remains] REMAINS employed as a classroom teacher in the public school system for a minimum of 3 consecutive years [shall receive a salary signing bonus of \$1,000].~~

(ii) ~~If the individual leaves employment with the public school system before the end of the 3 year commitment, the individual shall reimburse the State in the amount of [[\$1,000]] \$3,000.~~

(4) ~~A classroom teacher who holds an advanced professional certificate, HAS 3 YEARS OF SATISFACTORY OR BETTER PERFORMANCE EVALUATION, and teaches in a public school identified by the State Board as a reconstitution school, a reconstitution eligible school, or a challenge school shall receive a stipend from the State in the amount of \$2,000 for each year that the teacher performs satisfactorily in the classroom.~~

(c) ~~An individual who receives a stipend or bonus under subsection (b) of this section may not be deemed an employee of the State.~~