

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2026 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

House Bill 4701

By Delegate Holstein

[Introduced January 21, 2026; referred to the
Committee on Education then Finance]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article,
 2 designated §18C-10-1, §18C-10-2, §18C-10-3, and §18C-10-4, relating to the creation of
 3 the West Virginia Math, Science and Special Education Teacher Scholarship Act; providing
 4 for a short title; providing for legislative findings and purpose; establishing the West
 5 Virginia Math, Science and Special Education Teacher Scholarship Act; requiring funding;
 6 setting forth the amount of scholarship money to be paid to educators who satisfy the
 7 thresholds; and creating a sunset provision.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 10. WEST VIRGINIA MATH & SCIENCE TEACHER SCHOLARSHIP ACT.

§18C-10-1. Short title.

1 This article shall be known and may be cited as the "West Virginia Math, Science and
 2 Special Education Teacher Scholarship Act."

§18C-10-2. Legislative findings and purpose.

1 (a) The Legislature hereby finds and declares that:

2 (1) Every West Virginia student should have access to education and training that will lead
 3 directly to quality employment opportunities within the state. For West Virginia to retain and attract
 4 teachers and educators in this particular field, our state must ensure that qualified teachers within
 5 West Virginia are incentivized to stay and work in West Virginia schools.

6 (2) West Virginia currently faces a shortage of educators, particularly with those who have
 7 specialized training in the mathematics, science and special education fields, which has likely
 8 contributed to underperformance in student test scores.

9 (b) The purpose of this article is to provide existing and upcoming West Virginia educators
 10 with incentives to remain in West Virginia and pursue a career in educating students in the fields of
 11 mathematics, science and special education through the creation of a scholarship program
 12 designed to recruit and retain teachers in mathematics and science.

§18C-10-3. West Virginia Math & Science Teacher Scholarship Act; funding.

1 (a) There is hereby created a scholarship program known as the "West Virginia Math,
2 Science and Special Education Teacher Scholarship", which shall be administered by the vice
3 chancellor for administration pursuant to §18B-4-2 of this code.

4 (b) The scholarship program shall be available to all West Virginia certified teachers with
5 specializations in mathematics, science or special education.

6 (1) A math, science or special education teacher who has been employed in an elementary
7 or secondary public school in this state for three years shall be eligible for up to \$2,000 in debt
8 relief through this scholarship.

9 (2) A math, science or special education teacher who has been employed in an elementary
10 or secondary public school in this state for six years shall be eligible for up to \$4,000 in debt relief:
11 Provided, That the total debt relief per teacher may not exceed \$4,000.

12 (c) Funding for this program shall be appropriated through a line item in the budget.

§18C-10-4. Eligibility requirements; agreements; sunset provision.

1 (a) To be eligible for the West Virginia Math, Science, and Special Education Teacher
2 Scholarship Program, an individual shall satisfy the following requirements:

3 (1) Be a citizen of the United States and have been a resident of West Virginia for at least
4 one year immediately preceding the date of application for the scholarship;

5 (2) Have completed at least a master's degree in education, with a specialization in
6 mathematics, science or special education;

7 (3) Be employed by an elementary or secondary public school in this state for a minimum
8 of three years for the initial \$2,000 of debt relief and six years for the additional \$2,000 of debt
9 relief;

10 (4) Fill a position that qualifies as mathematics, science or special education position under
11 applicable State Board of Education rules and policies; and

12 (5) Have available debt to qualify, as scholarship funds to recipients may not exceed any
13 debt owed at the time of award. Applicants who have a debt balance which is less than the award

- 14 amount may not receive more than the amount of the debt owed.
- 15 (b) The West Virginia Math, Science and Special Education Teacher Scholarship Program
- 16 shall begin on January 1, 2027 and shall sunset on January 1, 2037.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to create the West Virginia Math & Science Teacher Scholarship Act. The bill provides for a short title. The bill provides for legislative findings and a purpose. The bill provides for the West Virginia Math & Science Scholarship Program and sets forth the amount of scholarship money to be paid to educators who satisfy the thresholds. The bill sets forth criteria and creates a sunset provision.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.