

## **American Teacher Act**

### **One Pager**

The American Teacher Act aims to enhance teacher compensation and address critical shortages in the education workforce by providing grants to state educational agencies. This legislation seeks to ensure that all teachers receive fair salaries, particularly in underserved communities, while promoting the value of the teaching profession.

The American Teacher Act introduces a comprehensive program to award competitive grants to states, empowering them to implement measures that guarantee a minimum salary of \$60,000 for full-time teachers, adjusted for inflation. The focus is on retaining and attracting qualified educators, thus improving educational quality and student outcomes in districts facing significant challenges.

The American Teacher Act ensures that increased teacher salaries and awareness initiatives prioritize the following:

### **Equitable Salary Increases**

Grants will ensure that at least 85% of funds are allocated to local educational agencies, with priority given to those serving high percentages of low-income students. The bill establishes a minimum salary threshold of \$60,000 starting in the 2026-2027 school year, with annual adjustments based on the Consumer Price Index, ensuring that teachers are compensated fairly for their vital roles.

### **Addressing Teacher Shortages**

The Act directly addresses the pressing issue of teacher shortages by providing cost-of-living adjustments to salaries and funding a national campaign that promotes the value of teaching. This includes encouraging secondary school and college students to consider careers in education, with a focus on diversifying the teaching workforce.

### **Accountability and Reporting**

To maintain accountability, state educational agencies must provide sustainability plans to the Secretary of Education, outlining how they will uphold salary standards beyond the grant period. Applicants will detail their funding proposals, and the Secretary will report on the program's impact, including teacher retention rates and the effectiveness of salary enhancements.

### **Funding**

The legislation authorizes necessary appropriations for fiscal years 2026 through 2030, with a commitment to sufficient funding to support these critical initiatives and investments in the education sector.

The American Teacher Act provides a robust framework to elevate the teaching profession and strengthen our educational institutions by ensuring fair compensation, addressing shortages, and fostering a diverse and capable educator workforce. This will ultimately lead to improved educational outcomes and greater equity in education for all students.