

Early Light Academy Salary Supplement for Highly Needed Educators Program Policy



PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to describe how Early Light Academy (the “School”) administers the Salary Supplement for Highly Needed Educators (“SHiNE”) Program. This policy is meant to comply with the requirements of Utah Code § 53F-2-504.

DEFINITIONS

“Eligible teacher” means a teacher who:

- (a) has a qualifying assignment;
- (b) qualifies for the teacher’s assignment in accordance with an LEA’s policy; and
- (c) is a new employee or has not received an unsatisfactory rating on the teacher’s three most recent evaluations.

“Qualifying assignment” means a teacher who is assigned to a high-needs area.

“High-needs area” means at least two and up to five teaching assignments that an LEA designates in a policy as challenging to fill or retain.

POLICY

High-Needs Areas

The following teaching assignments are designated as high-needs areas at the School:

- (a) Special Education (K-9);
- (b) Secondary Science (7-9); and
- (c) Secondary Math (7-9).

Process for Determining if a Teacher is an Eligible Teacher

The School’s Executive Director or his/her designee shall perform due diligence in determining whether a teacher meets the definition of eligible teacher as set forth in this policy. Due diligence includes, at a minimum, verifying that a teacher:

- (a) is assigned to teach in one of the high-needs areas listed above;
- (b) is qualified to teach in the high-needs area (qualification factors to consider include, but are not limited to, licensure, training, education, experience, and skills); and
- (c) is a new employee of the School or is not a new employee of the School but has not received an unsatisfactory rating on the teacher’s three most recent evaluations from the School.

On an annual basis, the School's Executive Director or his/her designee shall create a list of all teachers who have been determined to meet the definition of eligible teacher under this policy.

Process for Certifying a List of Eligible Teachers to be Awarded a Salary Supplement

On an annual basis, the School's Executive Director or his/her designee shall review the list of all teachers who have been determined to meet the definition of eligible teacher under this policy and shall make any changes to the list he/she feels is necessary. The list is considered certified by the School's Executive Director or his/her designee when he/she finalizes the list with accounting or human resources.

Salary Supplement Amount

All teachers at the School determined to be eligible teachers under this policy (i.e., all teachers on the certified list described above) shall receive a salary supplement under the SHiNE Program in an amount consistent with this policy and the funds allocated to and received by the School under the SHiNE Program.

Eligible teachers who are assigned 1.0 FTE in a high needs area shall receive the full salary supplement. Eligible teachers who are assigned less than 1.0 FTE in a high needs area shall receive a prorated salary supplement based on the percentage of their FTE in the high needs area. However, if an eligible teacher's employment with the School ends before the salary supplement is paid, the teacher shall receive only a prorated portion of the salary supplement based on the portion of the school year the teacher worked at the School.

In addition, an eligible teacher who begins employment with the School after the certified list described above has been finalized shall not be entitled to a salary supplement. However, the Executive Director may, in the Executive Director's sole discretion and subject to available SHiNE Program funding, award such teacher a prorated salary supplement based on the portion of the school year the teacher worked at the School.

The School may increase the amount of funds the School provides to eligible teachers if the School:

- (a) first ensures proper distribution of funds the School receives under the SHiNE Program to the School's eligible teachers; and
- (b) experiences a carry forward or leftover balance.

Appeals

If the School's Executive Director or his/her designee determines that a teacher does not meet the definition of eligible teacher and therefore does not qualify for a salary supplement under the SHiNE Program, the teacher may appeal that decision in writing to the School's Board of Directors (the "Board") if the teacher:

- (a) believes he/she does meet the definition of eligible teacher under this policy; or

- (b) has a teaching assignment at the School that is substantially equivalent to a high-needs area and otherwise meets the definition of eligible teacher under this policy.

When submitting an appeal, a teacher is required, at minimum, to provide transcripts and other documentation to the Board in order for the Board to determine if the teacher is an eligible teacher with a qualifying teaching background.

The Board shall make a decision on the appeal within thirty (30) school days.

Administrative Procedures

Each school year the Executive Director shall establish, through administrative procedures, the salary supplement amount that each eligible teacher will receive for that school year.

Updating Policy

The School shall update this policy annually and provide notice of any changes to the policy to teachers within the School.