

23104850D

HOUSE BILL NO. 2495

Offered January 20, 2023

A *BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 22.1-207.8, relating to establishment of Middle School Mathematics Innovation Zone Fund and Program.*

Patrons—Durant, Anderson, Austin, Ballard, Brewer, Byron, Campbell, E.H., Campbell, J.L., Cherry, Cordoza, Coyner, Davis, Fowler, Hodges, LaRock, Leftwich, Lopez, March, Marshall, McNamara, Morefield, Ransone, Runion, Scott, P.A., Tata, Taylor, VanValkenburg, Wachsmann, Walker, Wiley, Williams, Wilt and Wright; Senator: Ruff

Referred to Committee on Education

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 22.1-207.8 as follows:

§ 22.1-207.8. Middle School Mathematics Innovation Zone Fund and Program established.

A. There is hereby created in the state treasury a special nonreverting fund to be known as the Middle School Mathematics Innovation Zone Fund, referred to in this section as "the Fund." The Fund shall be established on the books of the Comptroller. All funds appropriated for such purpose, including funds directed from the Standards of Learning Algebra Readiness Initiative, and any gifts, donations, grants, bequests, and other funds received on its behalf shall be paid into the state treasury and credited to the Fund. Interest earned on moneys in the Fund shall remain in the Fund and be credited to it. Any moneys remaining in the Fund, including interest thereon, at the end of each fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund but shall remain in the Fund. Moneys in the Fund shall be used solely for the purposes of awarding grants pursuant to the Middle School Mathematics Innovation Zone Program established in subsection B. Expenditures and disbursements from the Fund shall be made by the State Treasurer on warrants issued by the Comptroller upon written request signed by the Superintendent.

B. The Middle School Mathematics Innovation Zone Program (the Program) is hereby established for the purpose of awarding grants on a competitive basis from the Fund to local school divisions to implement competency-based mathematics education and evidence-based mathematics learning models for students enrolled in grades six, seven, and eight in a public middle school. The Program shall be administered by the Department, and the Department shall, in addition to implementing the design elements and adhering to the requirements and limitations set forth in subsection C, establish such applications, rules, policies, procedures, and processes as it deems necessary or appropriate for the administration of the Program. The Department shall give preference in the award of grants to schools identified as in need of support.

C. The Program shall consist of the following design elements and shall be subject to the following requirements and limitations:

1. The Department shall establish an application for a school division to receive a grant pursuant to the Program and thereby designate a public middle school in the school division as a mathematics innovation zone (innovation zone). Preference shall be given to serving public middle schools identified as in need of support, including schools that demonstrate need based on data from the immediately preceding school year on the grades five, six, and seven mathematics Standards of Learning assessments, rural schools, and economically disadvantaged schools;

2. The Department shall establish quality criteria for, approve, and assign to each innovation zone according to geographic region technical assistance providers to partner with the innovation zone to support professional learning networks focused on providing research-based mathematics instruction using formative assessment data aligned to the goals of the Program and to prepare the innovation zone for the shift toward a competency-based education model;

3. Technical assistance providers approved pursuant to subdivision 2 shall identify and the Department shall approve model partner schools to coordinate a partnership with innovation zones to support implementation of innovative learning models in such innovation zones while sharing strategies to improve instructional practice and student outcomes. The Department shall coordinate with each approved technical assistance provider to ensure that high-quality instructional practices are identified and implemented through evidence-based innovative models;

4. A team within the Department, including an independent researcher, shall determine a model for collecting evidence in order to validate the student outcomes in innovation zones. Approved technical assistance providers and model partner schools shall collaborate to identify, subject to the approval of the Department, a research organization to independently validate student outcomes and results and program design in innovation zones;

INTRODUCED

HB2495

- 56 5. The Department may revoke the designation of a middle school as an innovation zone and replace
57 an approved technical assistance provider if the Department determines that such provider has failed to
58 implement the instructional program with fidelity or comply with any requirements imposed in this
59 subsection;
- 60 6. The implementation of the innovative learning models in innovation zones shall begin within one
61 year of receipt of the grant pursuant to the Program, and no grant shall be awarded for a period
62 exceeding five years; and
- 63 7. Beginning in 2025, each innovation zone shall issue an annual report to the Department,
64 including information on the implementation of innovative learning models and student outcomes.