



2024 South Dakota Legislature  
**Senate Bill 1**  
**ENROLLED**

AN ACT

**ENTITLED An Act to expand eligibility for the reduced tuition benefit for certain school district and Head Start employees at Board of Regents institutions to school counselors.**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA:

**Section 1. That § 13-55-24 be AMENDED:**

**13-55-24.** A teacher, vocational instructor, or school counselor, who meets the requirements of § 13-55-27 and section 5 of this Act, and all of the requirements for admission, may attend and pursue any undergraduate or graduate course in any institution under the control and management of the Board of Regents upon the payment of fifty percent of tuition and one hundred percent of required fees. If the teacher, vocational instructor, or school counselor enrolls in a distance education course under the control and management of the Board of Regents or other course under the control and management of the Board of Regents that is not subsidized by the general fund, the teacher, instructor, or counselor is entitled to a benefit of fifty percent of the tuition to be paid to the institution by the Board of Regents based on the in-state resident tuition rate.

The Board of Regents shall maintain an annual record of the number of participants and the tuition dollar value of such participation.

**Section 2. That § 13-55-25 be AMENDED:**

**13-55-25.** A teacher, vocational instructor, or school counselor is eligible for the reduced tuition amount provided for in § 13-55-24 for a maximum of six credit hours per year.

**Section 3. That § 13-55-26 be AMENDED:**

**13-55-26.** The right of any teacher, vocational instructor, or school counselor to participate in the reduced tuition program under §§ 13-55-24 to 13-5-28, inclusive, is

limited to the space available, as determined by the course instructor, in any course, after all of the full-time or full tuition paying students have registered.

**Section 4. That § 13-55-27 be AMENDED:**

**13-55-27.** To be eligible for the reduced tuition benefit under §§ 13-55-24 to 13-55-28, inclusive, an individual must:

- (1) Be a bona fide resident of the state;
- (2) Be employed or contracted by a school district or Head Start program in this state as a:
  - (a) Teacher;
  - (b) Vocational instructor; or
  - (c) School counselor; and
- (3) Be required by state law, administrative rules, or an employment contract to attend college:
  - (a) As a condition of employment;
  - (b) To maintain a certificate to teach; or
  - (c) To maintain certification as a school counselor.

To remain eligible, an individual must earn an average academic grade of 3.0 or better in any course the tuition benefit is used for.

**Section 5. That chapter 13-55 be amended with a NEW SECTION:**

To apply for the reduced tuition benefit, a teacher, vocational instructor, or school counselor shall:

- (1) Submit an application, developed by the Board of Regents, to the institution at which the individual intends to register for the course; and
- (2) Present certification, with the application, from the individual's employer that the individual meets the eligibility requirements of § 13-55-27.

**Section 6. That § 13-55-28 be AMENDED:**

**13-55-28.** No benefits may accrue under §§ 13-55-24 to 13-55-27, inclusive, and section 5 of this Act, if a teacher, vocational instructor, or school counselor is entitled to other reduced tuition benefits by law.

An Act to expand eligibility for the reduced tuition benefit for certain school district and Head Start employees at Board of Regents institutions to school counselors.

I certify that the attached Act originated in the:  
  
Senate as Bill No. 1

Received at this Executive Office  
this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_,  
2024 at \_\_\_\_\_ M.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of the Senate

By \_\_\_\_\_  
for the Governor

\_\_\_\_\_  
President of the Senate

The attached Act is hereby  
approved this \_\_\_\_ day of  
\_\_\_\_\_, A.D., 2024

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of the Senate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor

**STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA,**

ss.

Office of the Secretary of State

\_\_\_\_\_  
Speaker of the House

Attest:

Filed \_\_\_\_\_, 2024  
at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock \_\_ M.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of State

Senate Bill No. 1  
File No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Chapter No. \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Asst. Secretary of State