



2026 South Dakota Legislature

House Bill 1213

Introduced by: **Representative Muckey**

1 **An Act to make an appropriation for a statewide educator retention initiative.**

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

3 **Section 1.** There is appropriated \$2,500,000 from the general fund, to the Department of
4 Education, for the purpose of providing grants to school districts and accredited nonpublic
5 schools as part of a statewide educator retention initiative.

6 **Section 2.** The statewide educator retention initiative must employ a comprehensive
7 approach that uses quantitative and qualitative data to address issues that impede a school
8 district's educator retention. The Department of Education shall administer and make
9 available the moneys appropriated for the statewide educator retention initiative, pursuant to
10 section 1 of this Act, to directly assist school districts and accredited nonpublic schools in
11 resolving issues that impede educator retention. The department may partner with a qualified
12 organization or entity to provide the statewide educator retention initiative.

13 **Section 3.** The Department of Education shall provide grants for costs associated with
14 participation in the statewide educator retention initiative, based on applications received
15 from school districts and accredited nonpublic schools and approved by the Department of
16 Education during the period beginning on July 1, 2026, and ending on June 30, 2029. The
17 department may spend up to five percent of the appropriation in section 1 of this Act for costs
18 incurred in administering the grants.

19 **Section 4.** The secretary of the Department of Education shall approve vouchers and the
20 state auditor shall draw warrants to pay expenditures authorized in this Act.

21 **Section 5.** Any amounts appropriated in this Act not lawfully expended or obligated shall
22 revert in accordance with the procedures prescribed in chapter 4-8.

23 **Section 6.** This Act is effective beginning June 30, 2026.