

## 2026 South Dakota Legislature

**House Bill 1213****AMENDMENT 1213D  
FOR THE INTRODUCED BILL**

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 educator-centered approach that uses quantitative and qualitative data to~~address issues that~~  
8 ~~impede a school district's guide and measure the impact of actions taken by a school district~~  
9 ~~or accredited nonpublic school to improve the workplace conditions that have the greatest~~  
10 ~~impact on~~ educator retention. The Department of Education shall administer and make  
11 available the moneys appropriated for the statewide educator retention initiative, pursuant to  
12 section 1 of this Act,~~to directly assist to provide grants to~~ school districts and accredited  
13 ~~nonpublic schools in resolving issues that impede educator retention. The department may~~  
14 ~~partner with a qualified organization or entity to provide the statewide educator retention~~  
15 ~~initiative that apply to participate in the initiative.~~

16 **Section 3.** ~~Any school district or accredited nonpublic school that is the recipient of a grant~~  
17 ~~under section 2 of this Act must partner with an entity that has the ability to provide research-~~  
18 ~~based tools and advisory support to elevate educator voices, reduce educator burnout, and~~  
19 ~~improve the daily working conditions of educators. The Department of Education shall provide~~  
20 ~~a list of entities that meet the requirements of this section to any interested school district or~~  
21 ~~accredited nonpublic school upon request prior to the opening of the application period as~~  
22 ~~provided in this section.~~

23 **Section 4.** ~~A school district or accredited nonpublic school may apply to participate in the~~  
24 ~~initiative only during the designated application period beginning September 1, 2026, and~~  
25 ~~ending on October 31, 2026. If the Department of Education does not obligate all of the~~

1 moneys appropriated in section 1 of this Act, before June 30, 2029, the department must  
2 initiate a second application period, beginning on July 1, 2029, and ending on August 31,  
3 2029.

4 **Section 5.** The Department of Education shall provide a written report to the Joint Committee  
5 on Appropriations, the House Committee on Education, and the Senate Committee on  
6 Education, on or before February first each year. The report must detail the results of the  
7 initiative in each school district or accredited nonpublic school that received a grant. Upon the  
8 request of the chair of a committee receiving the report, the secretary of the Department of  
9 Education shall make a presentation to the committee and answer any questions that the  
10 committee may have on the contents of the report.

11 ~~**Section 6.** The Department of Education shall provide grants for costs associated with~~  
12 ~~participation in the statewide educator retention initiative, based on applications received~~  
13 ~~from school districts and accredited nonpublic schools and approved by the Department of~~  
14 ~~Education during the period beginning on July 1, 2026, and ending on June 30, 2029. The~~  
15 ~~department may spend up to five percent of the appropriation in section 1 of this Act for costs~~  
16 ~~incurred in administering the grants.~~

17 **Section 6.** The secretary of the Department of Education shall approve vouchers and the  
18 state auditor shall draw warrants to pay expenditures authorized in this Act.

19 **Section 7.** Any amounts appropriated in this Act not lawfully expended or obligated shall  
20 revert in accordance with the procedures prescribed in chapter 4-8.

21 **Section 8.** This Act is effective beginning June 30, 2026.