

November 15-16, 2007

ITEM 137-108-R1107

Quality Educator Loan Assistance Program

THAT:

The Board of Regents of Higher Education approves a policy for the administration of the Quality Educator Loan Assistance Program established by the 2007 Montana Legislature.

EXPLANATION:

The Montana Legislature has established a student loan repayment assistance program for K-12 educators teaching in areas identified by geographic location and endorsement as areas of educator shortage in Montana. The program is codified in Montana law at §§ 20-4-501, et seq. MCA. Under the program, qualified educators working in shortage areas are eligible for student loan repayment assistance, up to a total of \$12,000 over a four-year period.

The statute assigns to the commissioner of higher education the administration of the program. The Montana Guaranteed Student Loan Program (MGSLP) will handle the administration of this program for the commissioner as part of MGSLP's assigned student financial-aid related activities. The commissioner's office currently administers the Montana Rural Physician Incentive Program and several scholarship programs.

Under this program, the Board of Public Education will identify and rank the shortage areas and supply the list to MGSLP on or before February 1 of each year in order that the program selections may be made.

ATTACHMENTS:

New Board of Regents Policy 940.14