



State Reps. Mike Ramone, Debbie Hudson, Joe Miro and David Bentz joined Gov. John Carney at McKean High School for Wednesday's bill signing ceremony.

NEWS:

New Initiative Will Help High-Needs Schools Attract Teachers

SEPTEMBER 7, 2018 – Providing financial incentives to educators who choose to teach in high-needs areas is the goal of a new Delaware law.

Governor John Carney signed [House Substitute 1 for House Bill 346](#) on Wednesday at Thomas McKean High School in Wilmington.

The measure provides awards of \$1,000 to \$2,000 annually for up to five years to qualifying teachers for the repayment of student loans. The money will be sent directly to the loan provider.

Generally, the legislation defines "high needs area" as any certification field the Department of Education identifies "as difficult to staff or of critical need." It can also mean schools with high-percentages of students who are low-income, English language learners, have disabilities, or are minorities.

"This bill offers an important support to attract and retain educators in the schools and subjects where we need them the most," said Delaware Education Secretary Dr. Susan

Bunting.

The legislation requires education officials to report annually to the General Assembly on the program's operation.

Former teacher, State Rep. Joe Miro, R-Pike Creek Valley, was one of five prime sponsors of the bipartisan legislation, which had strong support in both chambers.

State Reps. Tim Dukes, R-Laurel; Kevin Hensley, R-Odessa-Townsend-Port Penn; Danny Short, R-Seaford; and Jeff Spiegelman, R-Clayton, were among the bill's co-sponsors.