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HCS to provide aid to graduates going into education fields

By THE NEWS-ENTERPRISE
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Hardin County Schools is enacting a new program to help with the ongoing teacher shortage in the area.

According to a news release, starting with the class of 2023, HCS will provide up to \$350 per class for graduates from Central Hardin High School, John Hardin High School and North Hardin School who have been admitted and are in good standing in a post-secondary teacher education program.

If students carry 15 hours of teacher education classes per semester, the HCS contribution could be as much as \$1750 and would cap at \$2100, which is 18 hours of education classes, the release states.

HCS will provide up to \$525 per class if HCS graduates want to become certified in middle school or high school mathematics or science.

In return for the contribution, HCS and the graduate will enter a contractual agreement that will bring the HCS graduate back as an HCS teacher for at least three years.

“This ensures that we will employ the best and brightest teachers to educate our students by those who have a commitment to HCS and our community,” HCS Superintendent Teresa Morgan said in the release.

HCS graduates, starting with the class of 2023, must provide proof they are enrolled in teacher education programs at any accredited post-secondary institution.

However, the partnership between HCS and Western Kentucky University will pay more for these graduates if they enroll at WKU since the university will match the HCS contribution.

This means that two-thirds of the tuition costs are covered for those not seeking certification in middle school or high school math and science, and all of the tuition is covered for those who do seek certification in middle school or high school math and science, the release states.

The HCS graduates must be admitted into and remain in good standing with the WKU College of Education and Behavioral Sciences.

It states that a similar program is also in place for the district’s classified employees. The funds for both initiatives come to the district by way of a federal grant.

