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S.F. No. 3229 – Modifies the alternative teacher preparation grant program eligibility

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This bill amends the alternative teacher preparation grant program, which provides a different path towards Minnesota teacher licensure outside the traditional track. The legislation establishing the program passed in 2017 and was funded onetime in the amount of \$750,000 in the 2018 fiscal year.

This bill expands eligibility and provides ongoing funding for the program.

Section 1 expands eligibility for the alternative teacher preparation grant. In order to be eligible, the program must be working to fill “shortage areas.” The definition of shortage area is amended to include license shortage areas under section 136A.1275, which are:

- (1) English as a second language;
- (2) early childhood;
- (3) special education;
- (4) career and technical education;
- (5) science, technology, engineering, arts, and math; and
- (6) world languages.

This section also allows the commissioner of the Office of Higher Education to award a grant to an alternative teacher preparation program that previously received a grant under this section.

Section 2 appropriates \$1,000,000 from the general fund to the commissioner of education, for transfer to the commissioner of higher education (commissioner). The commissioner may prioritize grants to new or expanding programs and may use not more than 3% of the appropriation to administer the program. The base is \$1,000,000.

This section is effective 7/1/22.

