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No teacher assistant's salary shall be reduced as a result of placement on the salary schedule, and no teacher assistant shall receive less than a seven hundred fifty dollar (\$750.00) salary increase as a result of placement on the salary schedule for the 2009-2010 school year.

Any teacher assistant currently being paid higher than years of experience earned shall be held harmless until his or her salary is commensurate with years of experience.

SECTION 1.(c) The State Board of Education shall adopt criteria to determine and collect current work experience credit. All work experience as a teacher assistant in any public school within the State or in another state shall be used in determining total work experience credit. The State Board of Education shall determine the amount and to what degree other comparable work experience counts towards teacher assistant work experience credit.

SECTION 1.(d) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules necessary to implement this act.

SECTION 2. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Public Instruction the sum of twenty-seven million eight hundred eighty-six thousand three hundred thirty-one dollars (\$27,886,331) for the 2009-2010 fiscal year and the sum of twenty-seven million eight hundred eighty-six thousand three hundred thirty-one dollars (\$27,886,331) for the 2010-2011 fiscal year to implement the provisions of this act.

SECTION 3. This act becomes effective July 1, 2009.