



Teachers Live Here will provide \$25,000 in down payment assistance to Holland Public Schools teachers.

An anonymous donor in the City of Holland will help HPS retain and recruit the best educators to the district.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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(January 24, 2023, Holland, MI) – An investment from an anonymous donor in the City of Holland will fund a new program at Holland Public Schools that will retain and recruit the best educators to the district. **Each year, 10 HPS teachers will receive up to \$25,000 each toward the down payment of a home in or near the school district.** In exchange, teachers who receive the funding will stay in the district for at least the next five years.

This exciting new program is only possible because of an investment from an anonymous donor in the City of Holland who supports Holland Public Schools and HPS Teachers. **“Teachers play a key role for the future of our society and provide some of the most impactful and important relationships kids have during their childhood. It is time our community values and celebrates our educators!”** -Anonymous Donor, *Teachers Live Here*

“We know that high-quality educators are the greatest tool we have to prepare our students for careers, college, and life. This will be one of the many factors that will help us recruit and retain the best teachers in West Michigan.” -Nick Cassidy, *Holland Public Schools, Superintendent*

To be eligible, teachers must purchase a home within 15 miles of the district, have a household income of less than \$100,000 a year, and have completed at least one-year in the district with a satisfactory evaluation. Priority will be given to first-time home-buyers, teachers who purchase a home within the district boundaries, and teachers who have a certification that has been identified as a need in the district.

After a recent survey of HPS educators, district administrators anticipate receiving 19 applications from eligible teachers during the shortened first year of Teachers Live Here (open now through the end of May). The second year of the program will begin June and will award an additional 10 grants at that time. Superintendent Cassidy said, **“It is exciting to know that by the start of next school year, HPS could have an additional 20 teachers living in homes in our community and committed to impacting the lives of students in the district.”**

Lillian Snoeyink is a 1st-grade teacher at Holland Language Academy and is the first recipient of a Teachers Live Here grant. **“I believe that public education is the foundation upon which every community is built. When I look ahead to the goals for my career and my life, I see no better path than living, working, and raising a family in Holland. I would love nothing more than to call Holland my home.”**

More information about the program, eligibility requirements, and an application are available at [**www.teacherslivehere.org**](http://www.teacherslivehere.org).

Holland Public Schools embraces, engages, educates, and empowers each student for success in an ever-changing world. In partnership with the community, HPS will be recognized as the educational home for students, families, and staff in the greater Holland area. Among our core values is the recruitment and retention of, and investment in highly-qualified staff who are committed to serving the needs of our students and community.