

EW RISINGER

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Week 2

Education Rebuild — National Security Excellence Program

"Excellence rewarded. Every school. Every zip code."

1. The Problem

American education produces mediocrity because it rewards attendance instead of excellence, tolerates ineffective teaching because tenure protects it, and leaves workforce training to a private market that has abandoned it — while national security workforce shortages in STEM, medicine, and skilled trades go unfilled.

2. The Governing Principle

Excellence is identified, rewarded, and replicated at every school in every zip code. The federal government sets the standard, funds the pipeline, and measures the outcome. Every dollar invested in teacher quality and workforce training returns more in economic productivity than it costs.

3. The Specific Policy

Teacher Quality and Compensation

- **National Board Certification premium — \$10,000 per year:** every NBC-certified teacher in a public school receives a \$10,000 per year federal supplement. NBC certification is the strongest peer-reviewed predictor of student outcomes available. Currently fewer than 4% of teachers hold it. The incentive changes that. A teacher who earns NBC certification earns \$10,000 more every year they hold it — permanently, regardless of district.

- **Master Teacher designation and pay — \$15,000 per year:** each school identifies its top 10% of teachers by demonstrated student outcome improvement over three years. Master Teachers receive a \$15,000 federal supplement and are required to mentor two junior teachers per year. Excellence is identified in every school, compensated, and replicated through mandatory mentorship. The best teachers make the next generation of teachers better.

- **Performance-based tenure reform:** tenure decisions require demonstrated student outcome

improvement over three years, not just time served. Existing tenure is not revoked retroactively. New tenure grants require the performance standard. A teacher who cannot demonstrate that students learn more in their classroom than comparable students in other classrooms does not receive tenure as a matter of course.

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- STEM teacher shortage pipeline

— **Week| 12**

coordination:

engineers, scientists, and

technologists who complete a one-year teaching certification program and commit to five years in a public school STEM classroom receive full student loan forgiveness under the Week 12 Career Incentive Program. The career changer pipeline fills STEM teaching vacancies the education system cannot fill from within.

National Security Excellence Program (NSEP)

- **Qualifying fields:** cybersecurity, AI and machine learning, semiconductor engineering, quantum computing, advanced manufacturing, nuclear engineering, rural medicine, and mental health — all fields where the U.S. faces documented national security workforce gaps confirmed by DoD, DHS, and HHS assessments.

- **NSEP scholarships:** full tuition at any accredited program in a qualifying field plus \$25,000 per year living stipend. Service commitment: four years in a qualifying federal agency, defense contractor with security clearance, or domestic manufacturing facility in a designated industry. No service commitment — full repayment at standard loan rates. No exceptions.

- **NSEP enrollment target:** 25,000 new scholars in Year 1, 100,000 by Year 4. Priority enrollment for students from low-income households, rural communities, and underrepresented groups in qualifying fields. The national security workforce should look like the country it defends.

- **Mental health as a qualifying NSEP field:** 57% of U.S. counties have zero psychiatrists. 160

million Americans live in mental health shortage areas. Mental health providers are added to NSEP qualifying fields with the same scholarship terms as cybersecurity and semiconductor engineering

— **because an untreated mental health crisis is a national security crisis.**

Vocational Education Restoration

- **Every high school offers a genuine vocational track:** plumbing, electrical, HVAC, welding, carpentry, culinary arts, and healthcare support. Not a consolation track for students who cannot handle academics — a real credential that leads directly to an apprenticeship and a living wage. Federal funding for vocational programs tied to demonstrated employment placement rates within 12 months of graduation.

- **Vocational track connects directly to Week 12 Career Incentive Program:** students who complete a vocational certification in high school receive priority enrollment in the Week 12 fully funded apprenticeship program. The pipeline runs from high school vocational certification to federally funded apprenticeship to employment in a shortage-area trade.

4. Estimated Cost

NBC premium at full deployment: approximately \$1.4 billion per year. Master Teacher designation at Phone: 816-674-1686 | Email: ernie@ewrisinger.com 10% of 3.5 million teachers: approximately \$5.3 billion per year. NSEP scholarships at 25,000 in Year 1 at \$50,000 average annual cost: approximately \$1.25 billion per year. Vocational education restoration grants: approximately \$2 billion per year. Total Year 1: approximately \$10-12 billion. Funded from Week 1 corporate tax reform revenue after CBO verification.

5. Year 1 Implementation and Measurable Result

Year 1 measurable result: 25,000 NSEP scholars enrolled with signed service commitments; NBC teacher premium payments disbursed to all currently certified teachers within 180 days of inauguration; Master Teacher designation program operational in all 50 states with measurable student outcome tracking by end of Year 1.