

# TEACH Grant Program

## *What you need to know...*

### **What is the TEACH Grant Program?**

The Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant Program provides grants of up to \$4,000 per year to students who agree to teach for four years at an elementary school, secondary school, or educational service agency that serves students from low-income families and to meet other requirements.

### **What are the conditions to receive a TEACH Grant?**

In exchange for receiving a TEACH Grant, you must agree to serve as a full-time teacher in a high-need field in a public or private elementary or secondary school that serves students from low-income families. As a recipient of a TEACH Grant, you must teach for at least four academic years within eight calendar years of completing the program of study for which you received a TEACH Grant. **IMPORTANT:** If you fail to complete this service obligation, all amounts of TEACH Grants that you received will be converted to a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan. You must repay this loan to the U.S. Department of Education. You will be charged interest from the date the grant(s) was disbursed.

### **What are the eligibility requirements?**

To receive a TEACH Grant, you must:

- Meet the general eligibility requirements for the federal student aid programs as described at [www.studentaid.ed.gov/funding](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov/funding).
- Complete the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA<sup>SM</sup>)*.
- Be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen.
- Be enrolled as an undergraduate, post-baccalaureate, or graduate student at a school that participates in the TEACH Grant Program.
- Be enrolled in coursework that is necessary to begin a career in teaching or plan to complete such coursework. Such coursework may include subject area courses (e.g. math courses for a student who intends to be a math teacher).
- Meet certain academic achievement requirements (generally, scoring above the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile on one or more portions of a college admissions test or maintaining a cumulative GPA of at least 3.25).
- Receive counseling (on ED's TEACH Grant website at <http://teach-ats.ed.gov>) that explains the terms and conditions of the TEACH Grant service obligation.
- Sign a TEACH Grant Agreement to Serve.

### **What are the High-Need Fields for 2011-2012 in Kentucky?**

The high-need fields are the specific areas identified below:

- Biology - Secondary
- Chemistry - Secondary
- Earth Science - Secondary
- English as a Second Language
- Exceptional Children (EBD, FMD, LBD, PD)
- Mathematics - Middle School
- Mathematics - Secondary
- Physics
- Science - Middle School
- World Languages (French, German, Japanese, Spanish)
- Other identified teacher shortage areas as of the time you begin teaching in that field. These are teacher subject shortage areas (not geographic areas) that are listed in the Department of Education's Annual Teacher Shortage Area Nationwide Listing. To access the listing, please go to [www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oep/pol/tsa.doc](http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oep/pol/tsa.doc).

### **What are Schools Serving Low-Income Students?**

Schools serving low-income students include any elementary or secondary school that is listed in the Department of Education's Annual Directory of Designated Low-Income Schools for Teacher Cancellation Benefits. To access the directory, please go to [www.tcli.ed.gov](http://www.tcli.ed.gov) and click on the Search button.

### **What is the TEACH Grant Agreement to Serve?**

Each year that you receive a TEACH Grant, you must sign an Agreement to Serve on ED's TEACH Grant website at <http://teach-ats.ed.gov>. The TEACH Grant Agreement to Serve explains the terms and conditions of the service obligation you must agree to fulfill the service obligation, the TEACH Grant funds you received will be converted to a loan that you must repay.

### **What are the terms and conditions of the TEACH Grant Service Obligation?**

In exchange for receiving a TEACH Grant, you must agree to the following:

- For each TEACH-Grant-eligible program for which you receive TEACH Grant funds, you must serve as a fulltime teacher for a total of at least four academic years within eight years after you complete or otherwise cease to be enrolled in the program for which you received the TEACH Grant.
- You must perform the teaching service as a highly qualified teacher at a low-income school or educational service agency. The term “highly qualified teacher” is defined in Section 9101(23) of the Elementary and Secondary Act of 1965 and in Section 602(10) of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.
- Your teaching service must be in a high-need field.
- You must provide ED with documentation of your progress toward completing your service obligation.
- **If you do not meet the requirements of your service obligation, all TEACH Grant funds you received will be converted to a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan. You must repay this loan in full, with interest charged from the date of the TEACH Grant disbursement.**

### **How Can I Identify Schools or Educational Service Agencies that Serve Low-Income Students?**

Elementary and secondary schools (public and private) and educational service agencies serving low-income students are listed in ED’s annual “Teacher Cancellation Low-Income Directory.” To access the directory, visit [www.tcli.ed.gov](http://www.tcli.ed.gov) and click on the “Search” button. In addition, elementary or secondary schools operated by the Department of the Interior’s Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) or operated on Indian reservations by Indian tribal groups under contract or grant with the BIE qualify as low-income schools.

### **Can a TEACH Grant Service Obligation Ever Be Suspended or Cancelled?**

You may request a temporary suspension of the eight-year period for completing your TEACH Grant service obligation based on:

- Your enrollment in a TEACH-Grant-eligible program or your enrollment in a program that a state requires you to complete in order to receive a certification or license to teach in that state’s elementary or secondary schools. For example, if you received a TEACH Grant for an undergraduate program and you later enroll in a graduate program for which you would be eligible to receive a TEACH Grant, you could receive a suspension of the eight-year period for completing your service obligation for the undergraduate program while enrolled in the graduate program.
- A condition that is a qualifying reason for leave under the *Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA)*.
- A call or order to active duty status for more than 30 days as a member of the armed forces reserves, or service as a member of the National Guard on full-time National Guard duty under a call to active service in connection with a war, military operation, or national emergency.

Suspensions are granted in one-year increments, not to exceed a combined total of three years for the first two conditions listed above, or a total of three years for the third condition. If you receive suspension, the eight-year period for completing your service obligation is put “on hold” during the suspension period. For example, if you receive a one-year suspension after two years of the eight-year period for completing your service obligation have elapsed, you would have six years left to complete your service obligation when the one-year suspension period ends.

Your TEACH Grant service obligation may be cancelled (discharged) if you die or if you become totally and permanently disabled (see [www.ifap.ed.gov/disabilitydischarge/borrowerprocess.html](http://www.ifap.ed.gov/disabilitydischarge/borrowerprocess.html)). You may also receive a discharge of some or all of your four-year teaching requirement if you are called or ordered to qualifying military active duty for a period that exceeds three years.