

TEACH Grant Revisited

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TEACH Grant Program

- College Cost Reduction and Access Act (CCRAA) – Public Law 110-84, enacted September 27, 2007
- CCRAA expanded student and borrower benefits through offsets to the FFEL Program
- CCRAA established the Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant Program effective for the 2008-2009 Award Year

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TEACH Grant Program Summary

- A non-need based program that provides up to \$4,000 per year to students enrolled in an eligible program and who agree to teach as a highly-qualified teacher in a high-need field, at a low-income elementary or secondary school for at least 4 years within 8 years of completing the program for which the TEACH Grant was awarded.
- Failure to complete the required teaching service results in conversion of the TEACH Grant to a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan with interest accruing from the date the grant was disbursed.

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TEACH Grant Amounts

- Grants of up to:
 - \$4,000 per year for 1st undergraduate or post-baccalaureate degree (up to an aggregate amount of \$16,000)
 - \$4,000 per year for master's degree (up to an aggregate amount of \$8,000)
- Grants are prorated for less than full-time students
- Amount of TEACH Grants, in combination with other assistance, may not exceed COA

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Duration of Student Eligibility

- Undergraduate or post-bacc student enrolled in a TEACH Grant eligible program may receive up to four Scheduled Awards for time period needed to complete a first baccalaureate or post-bacc program combined
 - Undergraduate can get a TEACH Grant only for their first undergraduate degree

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Duration of Student Eligibility

- Graduate student may receive up to two Scheduled Awards
 - No restriction on prior holding graduate degrees

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Cancellation of TEACH Grant

- Institution must notify TEACH Grant recipient of her right to cancel all or part of the TEACH Grant no earlier than 30 days before and no later than 30 days after crediting the recipient's account
- Institution must return or cancel the TEACH Grant if a cancellation request is received by the later of the first day of a payment period or 14 days after the date student was notified of cancellation rights

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Cancellation of TEACH Grant

- Institution may return or cancel the TEACH Grant if a request is received after 14 days but within 120 days of the disbursement date
- If institution does not return or cancel the TEACH Grant, student must be notified to contact the Department so that she can request conversion to Direct Loan

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TEACH Grant Student Eligibility

- Applicants can be:
 - Undergraduate students
 - Graduate students pursuing a master's degree
 - Students enrolled in a post-baccalaureate teacher credential program or
 - Current or former teachers or retirees

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TEACH Grant Student Eligibility

- All applicants must:
 - Meet requirements of 34 CFR 668, Subpart C – General Provisions Student Eligibility
 - Submit a completed FAFSA
 - Sign an Agreement to Serve
 - Enroll in a TEACH Grant-eligible institution in a TEACH Grant-eligible program
 - Be completing or intend to complete, coursework necessary to begin a career in teaching
 - Not have already earned a first BA or post-bacc

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Academic Achievement Requirements

- Undergraduate, Post-Bacc and Graduate Student
 - Cumulative GPA of at least 3.25
 - From high school for first year student or first semester of college
 - From college for other students
 - Or above the 75th percentile on one of the batteries of a nationally-normed admissions test, such as: SAT, ACT, GRE

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Transfer Students

- If student does not qualify w/regard to admission test score, current school must determine eligibility using one of two methods on following slide
 - Method used must coincide with school's current academic policy

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Transfer Students Method 1

- School does not incorporate grades from coursework accepted on transfer
 - Must calculate GPA for the first payment period using grades earned in coursework accepted from prior school
 - For subsequent payment periods must apply its policy not to incorporate grades accepted on transfer into GPA at the current school

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Transfer Students Method 2

- School incorporates grades from coursework accepted on transfer into GPA
 - Must use the grades from accepted coursework in determining GPA for first payment period and all subsequent payment periods

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Current/Former Teachers and Retirees

- Do not have to meet academic achievement requirements
- Current teachers/retirees must have expertise in a high-need field and be pursuing a master's degree
- Former teachers must be pursuing certification through a high-quality alternative certification route
- Alternative certification must be offered by an eligible institution of higher education and must be part of a master's degree program

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TEACH Institutional Eligibility

- Must be financially responsible in accordance with 34 CFR 668, subpart L, or meet an alternative standard
- May establish eligibility in any of 4 ways
- #1 Must provide a high-quality teacher preparation program at the baccalaureate or master's degree level that;
 - Is accredited by an agency specializing in professional teacher education programs
 - Is approved by a State and includes at least 10 weeks of full-time pre-service clinical experience and must provide/assist in providing pedagogical coursework

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TEACH Institutional Eligibility

- #1 - High-quality teacher preparation program (cont.)
- Must provide or assist in providing supervision and support services to teachers such as
 - Information on effective teaching strategies
 - Information on effective practices in supervision and coaching of novice teachers
 - Mentoring focused on effective teaching skills

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TEACH Institutional Eligibility

- #2 – Institution provides a two-year program that:
 - Is acceptable for full credit in an eligible baccalaureate teacher prep program
 - Is acceptable for full credit in a baccalaureate program in a high-need field offered by a TEACH Grant-eligible institution
- The institutions must be able to “demonstrate” this relationship

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TEACH Institutional Eligibility

- #3 – Institution offers a baccalaureate degree that, in combination with other training or experience, will prepare students to teach in a high-need field and
- Has entered into an agreement with an eligible institution that offers a high-quality teacher prep program or one that offers a post-baccalaureate program of study

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TEACH Institutional Eligibility

- #4 – Institution provides a post-baccalaureate program of study that:
 - Does not lead to a graduate degree
 - Consists of courses required by a State for a student to receive a professional certification in teaching
 - Is an undergraduate program for title IV student financial assistance purposes

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TEACH Grant Program Eligibility

- TEACH Grant-eligible institutions have wide latitude to designate the TEACH Grant-eligible programs offered by the institution
- Post-bacc program is not a TEACH Grant-eligible program at institutions that offer both a post-bacc and a BA in Education

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TEACH Grant Program Eligibility

- Different way of thinking about program eligibility
 - Title IV regs do not specifically define “program”
 - For most Title IV purposes, the term is used in a very general way
 - For most Title IV purposes, a baccalaureate program is four years in length

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TEACH Grant Program Eligibility

- For TEACH, the term “program” is used to mean something more specific
 - Programs must be defined in context of majors
 - A TEACH Grant-eligible program that leads to a baccalaureate degree may be shorter than four years in length
 - When the student enters the program is important – e.g., at time he declares a major, is admitted to College of Education, etc

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TEACH Grant Program Eligibility

- School that is a TEACH Grant Eligible Institution has the authority to determine which programs are TEACH Grant eligible
 - Any program that contributes to student’s preparation to teach in a high-need field may be designated as TEACH Grant eligible
 - It is not a requirement that the program include a teacher education component
 - Example: MBA program preparing students to teach in the high-need field of mathematics
 - Note that the program does not nor does it have to have an education component

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Program Eligibility Quiz

- Four-year baccalaureate program that does not include an education component
- Student is able to transfer out after two years (prior to declaring a major) into a teacher education program at the same school

Program Eligibility Quiz

- Is the school a TEACH grant eligible institution?
 - What if it did not offer an education program?
- May the school designate the program that does not include a teacher education component as a TEACH Grant eligible program?
- For how many years of enrollment could the student receive a TEACH Grant?

Counseling Requirements

- TEACH Grant-eligible institutions must provide initial, subsequent and exit counseling to TEACH Grant recipients that covers—
 - Terms and conditions of Agreement to Serve
 - Information on how to identify low-income schools and documented high-need fields

Counseling Requirements

- Counseling must cover (cont.):
 - How to request a suspension of the eight-year period for completion of service
 - Conditions under which the TEACH Grant converts to a Direct Unsubsidized Loan
 - Terms & conditions of a Direct Unsubsidized Loan
- Initial and subsequent counseling must be provided annually prior to first disbursement

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On-Line Counseling

- Initial and subsequent counseling available March 31, 2009
 - Will be part of the ATS website
 - Students required to on-line counseling before completing an ATS for the new award year
- TEACH Grant exit counseling website available March 31, 2009
 - Housed on DL Servicing Website
 - Planned link from TEACH Grant site

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Service Obligation

- A TEACH Grant recipient must sign an “Agreement to Serve” that obligates the recipient to:
 - Teach for 4 years within 8 years of completing or ceasing enrollment in a TEACH Grant-eligible program as a full-time highly-qualified teacher in—
 - A low-income elementary or secondary school
 - A high-need field

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Service Obligation

- High-need fields include:
 - Mathematics
 - Science
 - Foreign language
 - Bilingual education
 - English language acquisition
 - Special education
 - Reading specialist
 - Other high-need field documented by local, State or Federal government

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Fulfilling Service Obligation

- TEACH Grant recipient must teach in a high-need field in the majority of classes taught
- “Other” high-need fields must be listed in the Department of Education’s *Nationwide Listing of Teacher Shortage Areas*
- Elementary or secondary school is considered low-income and school is listed in the Department’s *Low-Income School Directory*

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Fulfilling Service Obligation

- TEACH Grant recipient must submit evidence of employment as certified by chief administrative officer of the school upon completion of each year of teaching service
- Grant recipient must complete an Agreement to Serve for each program of study for which TEACH Grants were received
- Eight year service period begins following completion or otherwise ceasing enrollment

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Conversion of Grant to Loan

- If the Grant recipient fails to complete the required teaching service, the TEACH Grant is converted to a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan with interest accruing from the date the grant was disbursed.
- Grant recipient will have 30 days from the date of conversion in which to pay accrued interest. Otherwise interest will be capitalized as of the date of conversion.

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Conversion of Grant to Loan

TEACH Grants will be converted to a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan if:

- The Grant recipient, regardless of enrollment status, requests the conversion
- Within 120 days of ceasing enrollment, the recipient fails to notify the Department of Education that he or she is employed, or intends to pursue employment, as a full-time teacher in accordance with the Agreement to Serve

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Conversion of Grant to Loan

TEACH Grants will be converted to a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan if: (cont.)

- Within one year of ceasing enrollment the recipient—
 - Has not been determined eligible for a suspension
 - Has not re-enrolled in a TEACH Grant-eligible program, or
 - Has not begun teaching service in accordance with the Agreement to Serve

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Conversion of Grant to Loan

TEACH Grants will be converted to a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan if: (cont.)

- The Grant recipient completes program and
 - Does not actively confirm to the Department, at least annually, his or her intention to satisfy the Agreement to Serve
 - Fails to begin or maintain qualified employment within a timeframe that would allow recipient to complete the teaching service

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Loan Conditions

- A TEACH Grant recipient whose grant has converted to a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan—
 - Enters repayment following a six-month grace period and
 - Is eligible for the benefits of the Direct Loan program, including an in-school deferment

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Suspension

- A TEACH Grant recipient who has completed or ceased enrollment in a TEACH Grant-eligible program may request a “suspension” of the eight-year period for completion of the service obligation based on:
 - Enrollment in a TEACH Grant-eligible program or a State-approved teacher certification program

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Suspension

- Suspensions of eight-year period for completion of the service obligation:
 - A condition covered under the Family and Medical Leave Act
 - Call or order to active duty status for more than 30 days as a member of Armed Forces reserves or National Guard

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Suspension

- Suspensions cannot exceed a combined total of three years except for military service, which is unlimited
- Suspensions must be requested prior to recipient being subject to a condition that converts the recipient's TEACH Grant to a loan

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Discharge of Agreement to Serve

- The Department will discharge the Agreement to Serve if:
 - The grant recipient dies. Original, certified or photocopy of death certificate required
 - The grant recipient becomes totally and permanently disabled and applies for and satisfies the eligibility requirements for the discharge under the Direct Loan Program

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Reauthorization of the Higher Education Act of 1965

- Higher Education Opportunity Act – H.R. 4137
- Enacted August 14, 2008 — Public Law 110-315
- Reauthorizes the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended
- Changes to TEACH Grant Program effective July 1, 2010

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HEA Reauthorization Changes to the TEACH Grant Program

- A plain-language disclosure summarizing the terms and conditions of a TEACH Grant must accompany the Agreement to Serve
- A high-need field no longer included on Nationwide List is grandfathered for teaching service purposes if field was listed when student received a TEACH Grant

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Grandfathered High Need Field

- **Current rule**
 - Recipient must teach in field designated as high-need by the state in which she begins qualifying teaching service
 - Even if the field subsequently loses high-need designation
- **Beginning 2010-2011 school year**
 - Recipient must teach in a field designated as high-need by the state in which she is teaching for any award year in which a TEACH Grant was received
 - Even if high-need field is no longer designated

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HEA Reauthorization Changes to the TEACH Grant Program

- “Extenuating circumstances” that excuse a TEACH Grant recipient from teaching service obligation must be established by the Secretary
- ED must submit a report to Congress on the TEACH Grant Program every two years

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TEACH Grant Resources

- Student Aid on the Web
<http://studentaid.ed.gov/PORTALSWebApp/students/english/TEACH.jsp>
- Dear Colleague Letters
<http://www.ifap.ed.gov/dpceletters/0110808GENFP0801.html>
<http://www.ifap.ed.gov/dpceletters/060308GEN0807.html>
- Electronic Announcements – Operational Guidance
<http://www.ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/062708CCRAATEACHStudent.html>
<http://www.ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/061908AddtlTEACHGrantOplmp.html>

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TEACH Grant Statistics Summary as of January 2, 2009

Number of Approved TEACH Grant Schools 664

Number of Schools Originating 283

Amount of Originations \$20,201,207

Number of TEACH Originations 5,955

Average Originated Award \$3,392

Number of Schools Disbursing 249

Number of TEACH Grant Disbursements 5,690

Amount Disbursed \$8,022,707

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Questions?
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