

MATHEMATICS & SCIENCE

TEACHERS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM
2009 - 2010

PRIORITY APPLICATION DEADLINE:

FALL 2009 - OCTOBER 15, 2009

*(ALL OTHER APPLICATIONS WILL BE REVIEWED
ON A FUNDS AVAILABLE BASIS)*



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM 2009 – 2010 APPLICATION

The *Mathematics and Science Teachers Scholarship Program* (including Technology/Engineering) was established as a pilot initiative by the Massachusetts Legislature for the purpose of providing financial assistance for coursework leading to the initial educator license in a Mathematics or Science field for teachers who are currently employed in Massachusetts public schools and teaching Mathematics or Science courses under either a preliminary license, license waiver, or are teaching outside of their license field (“out of field teachers”). This scholarship serves to address the Mathematics and Science teacher shortage, and is also designed to help reduce financial barriers that teachers often face when pursuing course work required for certification in a Mathematics or Science field.

Upon verification of a completed scholarship application, the 2009-2010 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), and written confirmation of teacher status. Applicants will be notified in writing of their approval for scholarship assistance. In all cases, scholarship funds are remitted to the college, on behalf of the applicant. Due to the timing of this program for 2009-2010 courses, and the enrollment verification process that is mandatory for this program, funds may not be available during the institution’s required tuition/fee payment schedule. In this case, teachers are responsible for payment to the institution. The institution will refund scholarship proceeds to the applicant upon receipt from the Commonwealth, but only after all billed charges are paid. Applicants, however, are encouraged to notify their institution of a pending scholarship award (submit copy of approval letter) which may allow a deferment of tuition payment until funds are received by the institution.

The scholarship award for eligible teachers under this program shall include the cost of tuition, fees, and related expenses as determined by the Board of Higher Education and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education for up to three eligible courses per academic semester at an eligible institution of higher education in Massachusetts. Eligible teachers may receive a scholarship award for all academic semesters, including summer terms, based on availability of funds. To be eligible for the award, all applicants need to submit proof of their teacher waiver or out of field status for consideration.

Priority will be given to teachers employed in high-need districts. A high-need district is a district that has been targeted for corrective action in which there are one or more schools identified for corrective action or restructuring, or districts in which the percentage of low-income students is 40 percent or greater. Teachers in high-need districts are eligible to receive full funding for tuition, fees, and related expenses. Teachers employed in non-high-need districts are eligible for partial funding, up to 75%, of the cost of tuition, fees and related expenses. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education will provide the Department of Higher Education with a list of high needs districts.

The Board of Higher Education, in consultation with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, will annually review the tuition and fee charges at Massachusetts public and private colleges and universities and adjust the program award values, as it deems necessary.

To apply, complete and sign the following application and submit proof of teacher waiver, out of field status, or preliminary license in Mathematics or Science to the Massachusetts Office of Student Financial Assistance by October 15, 2009.

**Mathematics and Science Teachers Scholarship Program
Massachusetts Department of Higher Education
Office of Student Financial Assistance
454 Broadway, Suite 200
Revere, MA 02151
Telephone 617.727.9420 Fax 617.727.0667**

MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

AWARD TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Mathematics and Science (including technology/engineering) teachers may receive financial assistance if enrolled in a degree program or course of study, as specified, at an eligible college or university in Massachusetts. Scholarship recipients are subject to the following terms and conditions:

Student Eligibility Criteria:

To be eligible for the Mathematics and Science Scholarship, an applicant must:

- ◇ Be employed, as a teacher of Mathematics or Science in a public school (K-12) in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and continue employment in these disciplines while pursuing the degree program or course of study.
- ◇ Be enrolled in up to three higher education courses per academic semester in fulfillment of degree or program requirements in a state-approved educator preparation program for the initial license in the Mathematics or Science field and level of interest.
- ◇ Sign an agreement to teach or perform service as a Mathematics or Science teacher in a public school in Massachusetts as required by the Department of Higher Education and Department of Elementary and Secondary Education as specified.
- ◇ Be a permanent resident of Massachusetts and a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen for at least one year prior to the start of the academic year.
- ◇ Be eligible under Title IV and not in default of a state or federal student loan, or owe a refund on any federal or state grant.
- ◇ Provide the Massachusetts Office of Student Financial Assistance with proof of teacher waiver, through the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, or a notarized letter indicating out of field teacher status or preliminary licensure in Mathematics or Science.

Teacher Responsibilities:

As a recipient of the Mathematics and Science Scholarship, you are responsible for:

- ◇ Notifying the Massachusetts Office of Student Financial Assistance of any change in your name, address or social security number, or employment status as a Mathematics or Science teacher.
- ◇ Informing the Office of Student Financial Assistance of any change in your plans to pursue a degree or course of study in Mathematics or Science.
- ◇ Annually file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for continued scholarship eligibility.
- ◇ Annually complete and return all required forms relating to the Mathematics and Science Scholarship Program.
- ◇ Maintaining academic progress in accordance with institutional standards for your degree or program of study.
- ◇ Notifying the Massachusetts Office of Student Financial Assistance about any changes to your teacher waiver, out of field status, or your certification level in a Mathematics or Science field.

Scholarship Acceptance Terms:

If you accept the scholarship, you agree to:

- ◇ Complete your certification requirements within a reasonable timeframe.
- ◇ Continue employment as a Mathematics or Science teacher in a Massachusetts public school for the length of required time, based on the amount of scholarship assistance received upon completing requirements for certification and licensure.

The service commitment will range from a minimum of one and a maximum of four years of employment as a full-time teacher, depending on the number of courses taken with scholarship assistance, as follows:

1-2 courses	one year
3-4 courses	two years
5-7 courses	three years
8-10 or more	four years

Teachers in high-need districts are expected to fulfill their term of service in a high-need district. If a teacher in a high-need district fulfills the term of service in a non-high need district, the teacher must repay the difference between the full scholarship rate and the partial scholarship rate paid to non-high-need district teachers.

****If you fail to comply with the service obligation as outlined, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts will require that you repay the amount of the scholarship received, prorated according to the fraction of service obligation not fulfilled, as determined by the Department of Higher Education and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.****

Current Employer

Public School District Name: _____

School Name: _____

Address: _____
Street City State Zip

Principal's Name: _____ Phone: () _____

Applicant's Dates of Service in District: From: Month _____ Year _____ To: Month _____ Year _____

*** The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education will contact your district to verify your employment information ***

III. Education/College Information

College/University you plan to attend in 2009-2010: _____

Location: _____

Major/ Specific Program of Study: _____

You must enroll in an eligible degree program or course of study to be considered for scholarship assistance.

Please check the degree level of the course work that you are taking: Certificate Masters Other _____
Specify

Enrollment Status: Please indicate the number of credits and the number of courses you plan to enroll in for all semesters. You will not be funded for more than three courses. All scholarship awards are contingent upon available funding.

Please provide the Office of Student Financial Assistance with an unofficial class schedule for the appropriate semester(s) of attendance.

	Anticipated Number of Credits	Anticipated Number of Courses
Fall 2009		
Spring 2010		
Summer 2010		

Check the appropriate district type for your school:

High need district (Tuition and Fees reimbursed at 100%):
Non-high need district (Tuition and Fees reimbursed at 75%):

When do you expect to complete your degree or program of study? Month _____ Year _____

You must complete the 2009-2010 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at www.fafsa.ed.gov in order to be considered for the Mathematics and Science Scholarship Program. Applications will not be considered until your FAFSA is processed and has been received by the Massachusetts Office of Student Financial Assistance.

By my signature below, I have read and agreed to the terms and conditions of the Mathematics and Science Scholarship Program.

Teacher's Name (please print) _____ Signature _____ Date ____/____/____

Name of College 2009-2010

MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

2009-2010 TEACHER STATUS FORM

Applicants for the Mathematics and Science Teachers Scholarship are required to provide the Massachusetts Office of Student Financial Assistance with written proof of their waiver status through the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education or their out of field licensure status. Applicants may also be preliminarily licensed Mathematics or Science teachers pursuing course work to obtain their initial license through the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. This form can be used to verify this scholarship requirement.

Please fill out the following information and return to the Massachusetts Office of Student Financial Assistance. Remember that applications for the Mathematics and Science Teachers Scholarship will be considered incomplete without this verification.

Part I--To Be Completed by Scholarship Applicant

I declare that I am currently teaching a Mathematics or Science curriculum as a licensed out of field teacher, on a waiver from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, or as a preliminarily licensed Mathematics or Science teacher at the school listed below. I am returning this form indicating that I meet the scholarship requirements and am in the process of completing course work that will lead to my initial licensure in a Mathematics or Science field. Upon completion of my course work, I agree to abide by the teaching requirement obligation as stipulated in the scholarship terms and conditions and notify the Massachusetts Office of Student Financial Assistance of any status changes.

Applicants Name _____ Email _____

Are you a previous Scholarship recipient? YES NO Number of previously funded courses _____

Phone Number _____/_____/_____ Address _____

School Name _____

School Address _____

Courses Taught _____ Current License _____
(for out of field teachers)

Signature _____ Date _____/_____/_____

Part II--To Be Completed by School Principal (or Department Head)

I certify that the information stated above is true. The person named is currently teaching in a Mathematics or Science field on a waiver from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, or is a licensed teacher teaching out of field in a Mathematics or Science curriculum, or is a preliminarily licensed Mathematics or Science teacher pursuing course work to gain initial licensure through the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Teachers on waiver will be verified by the Office of Student Financial Assistance with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Please indicate the applicant's status below.

On Waiver	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
Out-of-field	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
Pursuing Course Work For Initial License Certification	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO

Name _____ Title _____

Email _____ Phone No. _____/_____/_____

Signature _____ Date _____/_____/_____