

Massachusetts Assistance for Student Success Program

XV. Tomorrow's Teachers Scholarship Program

**BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION
TOMORROW'S TEACHERS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

DEFINITIONS:

INSTITUTION:

Any regionally accredited college or university in the Commonwealth that offers a Massachusetts Department of Education-certified teacher preparation program.

ELIGIBLE PROGRAM:

Any liberal arts undergraduate baccalaureate degree program that has been approved by the Department of Education for certification.

ELIGIBLE STUDENT:

A student enrolled in an eligible program and meeting the following requirements:

- a) Graduated in the top 25% of his/her high school graduating class.
- b) Submit the initial application during his/her senior year of high school.
- c) Rank in top 25% of class at time of application.
- d) Agrees to complete a four-year bachelor's degree program in an eligible college or university in the Commonwealth.
- e) Maintains full-time enrollment (minimum of 12 credits or the minimum required by the institution).
- f) Maintain a cumulative 3.0 G.P.A. for each academic year.
- g) Commits to teaching for four years (one year for each of the full or partial scholarship assistance received) in a public school in the Commonwealth upon successful completion of a bachelor's degree from the college or university and the appropriate certification in accordance with section 38G of Chapter 71 M.G.L.
- h) A permanent legal resident of Massachusetts for at least one year prior to the opening of the academic year and who is a U.S. citizen or a non-citizen eligible under Federal Title IV regulations.
- i) In compliance with applicable law regarding Selective Service Registration.
- j) Not in default of any Federal or State Student Loans for attendance at any institution or owe a refund for any previous financial aid received.

AWARD PROCEDURES:

The Office of Student Financial Assistance shall make scholarship awards annually to eligible students by March 1 for the upcoming academic year. Institutions shall certify student enrollment and tuition and fee cost.

AWARD PRIORITIES:

Priority in granting the Tomorrow's Teachers Scholarship award shall be given to eligible students who:

- Commit to teach in a subject area for which there is a documented teacher shortage in the Commonwealth. Shortage areas are designated by the United States Department of Education.
- Commit to teach in a geographic region or school district where there is a documented teacher shortage in the Commonwealth.

STUDENT AWARD VALUE:

An individual student scholarship award may not exceed the total of annual resident undergraduate tuition and fees at the participating institution for up to four (4) years. Students receiving a scholarship award may be granted partial or full awards. Students are required to complete an agreement regarding service and/or repayment (including interest).

FORFEITURE OF SCHOLARSHIP AWARD:

Persons who participate in the program but do not complete their college education within six years of entering college or who fail to complete their four-year teaching commitment within six years following graduation from college shall be obligated to repay the Commonwealth the full amount of Tomorrow's Teachers Scholarships advanced them, prorated according to the fraction of teaching not completed with interest, as determined by the Board of Higher Education.

OUTREACH PLAN AND ADMINISTRATION:

The Board of Higher Education shall draft and implement a Tomorrow's Teachers Scholarship Program Outreach Plan that is designed to attract high caliber students to the teaching profession with special focus on underrepresented populations. Up to \$200,000 annually shall be permitted to be spent from this appropriation for program promotion and administration.

PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT:

All institutions must file a State Financial Aid Participation Agreement to be maintained on file in the Office of Student Financial Assistance. It shall be the responsibility of each college and university to maintain adequate documentation of a recipient student's eligibility for the Tomorrow's Teachers Scholarship Program.

AUDIT REQUIREMENTS

- a) The Commissioner shall require each campus to furnish annually to the Board of Higher Education by August 31 a report detailing the number of Tomorrow's Teachers Scholarship Program recipients for the previous year and the corresponding scholarship amount awarded.
- b) All financial books, records and documents pertaining to this program shall at all times be open to inspection, review and audit by the Commissioner, the State Auditor or their authorized

representatives who shall have access to the premises wherever such books, records and documents are located. The institution shall retain such financial books, records and documents for seven years. An institution may retain such records for a period of five years if approval is received from the Records Conservation Board in accordance with General Laws, Chapter 30, Section 42.