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The TEACH Grant Program

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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



IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TEACH GRANT PROGRAM

- 2008 Negotiated Rulemaking – CCRAA Implementation
- Published Federal Register Notice – 10/07
- Convened Regional Hearings
 - November 1, 2007 – New Orleans
 - November 16, 2007 – Washington, D.C.
 - November 29, 2007 – San Diego
- Established Two Negotiating Committees:
 - TEACH Grants & Loans



IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TEACH GRANT PROGRAM

- TEACH Grant Proposed Rules
Negotiated on a Compressed Schedule:
 - January 8-10, 2008
 - January 22-24, 2008
 - February 6-8, 2008
- TEACH Grant negotiators reached
consensus on proposed regulations



IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TEACH GRANT PROGRAM

- Notice of Proposed Rulemaking published March 21, 2008
- <http://www.ifap.ed.gov/fregisters/FR03212008TECH.html>
- 30 Day Comment Period ended April 21, 2008
- Final Regulations published June 23, 2008
- <http://www.ifap.ed.gov/fregisters/FR06232008TEACH.html>



TEACH GRANT PROGRAM SUMMARY

- The TEACH Grant Program is 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 four years within eight years of completing the program for which the TEACH Grant was awarded.
- If the Grant recipient fails to complete the required teaching service, the TEACH Grant is treated as a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan with interest accruing from the date the grant was disbursed.



TEACH Grant Program Final Regulations

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



TEACH Grant Program Final Regulations

- 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 (§§668.165 and 686.31)
- 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.



TEACH Grant Program Final Regulations

- 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 DL



TEACH Grant Program Final Regulations

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



TEACH Grant Program Final Regulations

- TEACH Grant 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-bac



TEACH Grant Program Final Regulations

- TEACH Grant Undergraduate, Post-Bac and Graduate Student Eligibility
 - 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 an admissions test, such as:
 - SAT
 - ACT
 - GRE



TEACH Grant Program Final Regulations

- TEACH Grant Eligibility for Current/ Former Teachers and Retirees:
 - Current teachers/retirees must have expertise in a high-need field and be pursuing a master's degree
 - Former Teachers must be pursuing a certification through a high-quality alternative certification route
 - Alternative certification must be offered by an eligible institution of higher education



TEACH GRANT Program

Final Regulations

- TEACH Grant-eligible Institutions:
 - Must be financially responsible in accordance with 34 CFR 668, subpart L, or 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 extensive pre-service clinical experience and provides or assists in providing pedagogical coursework



TEACH Grant Program Final Regulations

- High-quality teacher preparation program at the baccalaureate or master's degree level (cont.):
 - Must provide or assist in providing supervision and support services to teachers such as:
 - Information on effective teaching skills
 - Information on effective practices in supervision and coaching of novice teachers and
 - Mentoring focused on effective teaching skills



TEACH Grant Program Final Regulations

- #2 TEACH Grant-eligible 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 an institution that has entered into an agreement with an eligible institution that offers a teacher prep program
- The institutions must “demonstrate” this relationship



TEACH Grant Program Final Regulations

- #3 TEACH Grant-eligible institution offers a baccalaureate degree that, in combination with other training or experience, will prepare student 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 an eligible institution that offers a post-baccalaureate program of study.



TEACH Grant Program

Final Regulations

- #4 A TEACH Grant-eligible 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
- Post-bac program is not a TEACH Grant eligible program at institutions that offer both a post-bac and a BA in education



TEACH Grant Program Final Regulations

- TEACH Grant-eligible institutions have wide latitude to designate the TEACH Grant-eligible programs offered by the institution
- TEACH Grant-eligible institutions must provide initial, subsequent and exit counseling to TEACH Grant recipients that covers—
 - Terms and conditions of the Agreement to Serve



TEACH Grant Program Final Regulations

- Initial, subsequent and exit counseling must cover:
 - Information on how to identify low-income schools and documented high-need fields
 - 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 Unsub loan
- Initial and subsequent counseling must be provided annually prior to first disbursement



TEACH Grant Program Final Regulations

- TEACH Grant recipient must sign an “Agreement to Serve” that requires the recipient to:
 - Teach for four 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



TEACH Grant Program Final Regulations

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



TEACH Grant Program Final Regulations

- 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 if 30% of the students are low-income and school is listed in the Department’s *Low-Income School Directory*



TEACH Grant Program Final Regulations

- 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



TEACH Grant Program Final Regulations

- If the Grant recipient fails to complete the required teaching service, the TEACH Grant is treated as 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.



TEACH Grant Program Final Regulations

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



TEACH Grant Program Final Regulations

- TEACH Grant Converts to a Direct Unsubsidized Loan if: (cont.)
 - Within one year of ceasing enrollment:
 - the recipient has not been determined eligible for a suspension
 - The recipient has not re-enrolled in a TEACH-Grant eligible program, or
 - The recipient has not begun teaching service in accordance with Agreement to Serve



TEACH Grant Program Final Regulations

- TEACH Grant Converts to a Direct Unsubsidized Loan if: (cont.)
 - The grant recipient completes the course of study 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 teaching service



TEACH Grant Program Final Regulations

- A TEACH GRANT recipient whose grant has converted to a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan—
 - Enters a six-month grace period prior to entering repayment
 - Is eligible for all benefits of the Direct Loan Program, including in-school deferment
- A TEACH Grant that is converted to a loan cannot reconvert to a TEACH Grant



TEACH Grant Program Final Regulations

- TEACH GRANT recipients who have completed or ceased enrollment in a TEACH-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



TEACH Grant Program Final Regulations

- Suspensions of eight-year period for completion of the service obligation:
 - A condition covered under the Family and Medical Leave Act
 - Final Regulations removed the list of conditions covered by the FMLA and added, in its place, a reference to qualifying for leave under the FMLA (29 U.S.C. 2612(a)(1) and (3) (recognizes that FMLA may change)



TEACH Grant Program Final Regulations

- Suspensions of eight-year period for completion of the service obligation:
 - Call or order to active duty status for more than 30 days as a member of Armed Forces reserves or National Guard
- Suspensions cannot exceed a combined total of three years except for military service which is unlimited
- Suspensions must be requested prior to being subject to condition that converts the recipient's TEACH Grant to a loan



TEACH Grant Program Final Regulations

- TEACH Grant recipient's Agreement to Service is discharged by the Department of Education if:
 - The grant recipient dies. Original, certified or photocopy of death certificate required.
 - The grant recipient becomes totally and permanently disabled and the grant recipient applies for and satisfies the eligibility requirements for the discharge under the Direct Loan Program



TEACH Grant Resources

- Student Aid on the Web—TEACH Grants
<http://studentaid.ed.gov/PORTALSWebApp/students/english/TEACH.jsp>
- TEACH Grant NPRM --
<http://ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/03242008/TEACHGRANT.html>
- TEACH Operations Electronic Announcement
– 3/11/08
<http://ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/031108C/ODXMLSchema3pt0a.html>
- Teachgrants.ed.gov



TEACH Grant Recent Guidance Available on IFAP (ifap.ed.gov)

- Dear Colleague Letter GEN-08-07
 - Instructions for establishing eligibility to participate in the TEACH Grant program
- 06/19/2008 Electronic Announcement
 - Teach Grant operational implementation information
- 06/27/2008 Electronic Announcement
 - Student aspects of TEACH Grant processing (operational for July 1, 2008)



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