



NEWS RELEASE

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New State Program Provides Financial Assistance to Iowa Teachers

Application available until Wednesday, November 26

Des Moines, IA., October 29, 2014 – Iowa educators teaching in high-need shortage areas may be eligible for financial assistance through the new Teach Iowa Scholar Program. The new program, which was passed during the 2013 legislative session and funded this year, provides a choice of either an income bonus or student loan repayment award to Iowa teachers who recently graduated in the top 25 percent of their respective teacher preparation programs and teach in state-designated shortage fields in Iowa.

Applications for the 2014-15 school year, accessible at www.IowaCollegeAid.gov, are currently being accepted online through Wednesday, November 26, 2014. No applications will be accepted after that date. Eligible teachers may receive awards up to \$4,000 a year for up to 5 years, not to exceed \$20,000 total. Teachers selected for the program will receive their awards next June after employment for the 2014-15 school year has been verified.

“Educating our young people and developing 21st century learners and productive citizens is one the most important jobs in our state,” said Karen Misjak, executive director of the Iowa College Student Aid Commission (Iowa College Aid), the agency responsible for administering the program. “The Teach Iowa Scholars Program provides an incentive for high-achieving students to not only select teaching as a profession, but to teach in Iowa in much needed shortage fields. The state has appropriated \$1.3 million for the 2014-15 school year and we look forward to assisting many deserving teachers.”

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To be considered for the Teach Iowa Scholars Program, applicants must:

- Have graduated in the top 25% of their respective teacher preparation programs within the last five academic years;
- Secure full-time employment for the 2014-15 school year at a school district or area education agency;
- Teach in a state-designated shortage field; and
- Complete the [online application](#) by the November 26, 2014 deadline.

Shortage areas are varied and include specific subject areas as well as special education, early childhood, counselors, teacher librarians and middle school teachers. A detailed list of the teacher shortage-areas, including required endorsements, is available at www.IowaCollegeAid.gov.

More information about the Teach Iowa Scholar Program, including the online application and detailed list of eligibility requirements, is available in the “Loan Repayment/Income Bonus” section of Iowa College Aid’s website, www.IowaCollegeAid.gov.

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About the Iowa College Student Aid Commission

Iowa College Aid provides college access, financial literacy, and outreach services to Iowa’s students and families as they prepare, plan and pay for college. Iowa College Aid also administers state scholarship, grant, work study, and loan forgiveness programs totaling over \$70.0 million annually, conducts research and distributes higher education data, and offers Iowans assistance in obtaining student financial aid and college-related information. Iowa College Aid is the administrator of the Federal GEAR UP Grant, a multi-year state-wide grant which is being used to provide early awareness programming and outreach initiatives to thousands of Iowa’s students and families. More information is available at www.IowaCollegeAid.gov.