

Arkansas Department of Higher Education

Teacher Education Loans and Grants

State Teacher Assistance Resource (STAR)

STAR Forgivable Loan (Applications accepted February 1, 2008, to June 1, 2008.)

STAR provides forgivable loans to students seeking an initial teacher license who commit to teaching in designated subject and/or geographic shortage areas in Arkansas after completion of licensure requirements. STAR loans are \$3000 to \$6000 per academic year for a maximum of two (2) to three (3) years, depending on length of program. Recipients must teach in an Arkansas public school in a designated subject and/or geographic shortage area one (1) year for each year of STAR funding received

STAR Repayment Grant (Applications accepted March 1, 2008, to May 1, 2008.)

If funds are available, current teachers may receive assistance in repayment of federal student loans in the amount of \$3000 to \$6000 per year for a maximum of three (3) years. Applicants must be licensed teachers who graduated from a teacher education program after April 1, 2004, and teach in an Arkansas public school in a designated subject and/or geographic shortage area. STAR Forgivable Loan recipients are not eligible to apply for a STAR Repayment Grant.

Minority Teacher Scholars Program (MTSP)

(Applications accepted February 1, 2008, to June 1, 2008.)

MTSP provides forgivable loans to undergraduate level minority students seeking an initial teacher license. Recipients may receive MTSP for a maximum of four (4) semesters or six (6) trimesters. Recipients may receive \$5,000 per academic year and must teach in an Arkansas public school for five (5) years after completing teacher license requirements. The teaching obligation may be reduced to three (3) years for designated subject and/or geographic shortage areas.

Minority Masters Fellows (MMF)

(Applications accepted February 1, 2008, to June 1, 2008.)

MMF provides forgivable loans to graduate level minority students. Recipients may receive a maximum of \$7,500 and may enroll as either full-time or part-time students. Recipients must teach in an Arkansas public school or public institution of higher education for two (2) years after completion of their Masters program. This shall be in addition to any teaching obligation the recipient may have to fulfill based on receipt of other funds.

Teacher Opportunity Program (TOP)

TOP Dual Certification Incentive (also known as TOP Dual Licensure Loan)

(Application deadlines: Summer II 2008 and Fall 2008: July 1, 2008; Spring 2009 and Summer I 2009: January 1, 2009.)

TOP provides forgivable loans to current teachers returning to college to receive an additional license in an approved subject shortage area. TOP loans include funding for tuition, mandatory fees, and books. The maximum TOP loan is \$3000 per academic year for a maximum of three (3) years, with the teacher's school district responsible for 1/3 of the loan and the Arkansas Department of Higher Education (ADHE) responsible for 2/3 of the loan. Recipients must teach in an Arkansas public school for three (3) years after completion of the dual license.

TOP Reimbursement Grant (Applications accepted January 1, 2008, to March 1, 2008.)

School districts are not required to participate in TOP Dual Licensure Loan. Therefore, if funds are available, TOP offers tuition reimbursement grants to current teachers unable to participate in TOP Dual Licensure Loan. Teachers may apply for reimbursement for up to six (6) credit hours per year for college credit courses related to their employment.

***See www.adhe.edu for the complete list of eligibility requirements, teaching obligations, and the most up-to-date information for each of the above programs. For more information, call (501) 371-2000 or (800) 547-8839 or email finaid@adhe.edu.**

Other Resources for Teachers

Americorps Statewide Future Teacher Initiative

Provides tutoring in reading and math for at-risk Pre-K to 12th grade students.

*Contact: Melinda Funderburg at (870) 367-6848 or Melinda.funderburg@se2.k12.ar.us

Arkansas Department of Education

Office of Teacher Recruitment and Retention

www.teacharkansas.org

Provides information for teachers and those seeking to become teachers in Arkansas.

*Contact: (501) 682-5535

Arkansas Geographical Critical Needs Minority Scholarship

www.uapb.edu

Provides financial assistance to minority students attending public or private institutions of higher education in Arkansas with approved teacher education programs. Recipients must teach in the Arkansas Delta region after completion of licensure program.

*Contact: University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff School of Education at (870) 575-8261

Arkansas Student Loan Authority

ASLA EdLoan Program for Teachers

www.asla.info

Provides a repayment incentive for borrowers who educate our children.

*Contact: (800)443-6030

SREB Doctoral Scholarship Program

www.sreb.org

Provides forgivable loans to assist minority students who desire entry into a Ph.D. program in mathematics, the sciences, engineering, foreign languages or other academic discipline areas, where minority doctoral degree recipients are underrepresented nationally.

*Contact: (404)875-9211 ext.269.

U.S. Department of Education

www.studentaid.ed.gov

Provides information on federal financial aid, including Deferment and Cancellation options for teachers.

*Contact: 1-800-4-FED-AID