

The **Kansas Teacher Service Scholarship** program provides financial assistance to both students pursuing bachelor's degree programs and currently licensed teachers pursuing endorsement in hard-to-fill disciplines or master's degrees in hard-to-fill disciplines or either group planning to teach in an underserved geographic area with a service obligation of one year of service for each award year.

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**Program Description:**

Knowing that there is an increased need to employ qualified teachers in hard-to-fill disciplines and underserved geographic areas of the state, this program was enacted to increase the number of licensed and fully endorsed teachers in the State of Kansas.

**APPLICATION CRITERIA:**

Applicants must be:

A resident of the State of Kansas and attending a Kansas postsecondary institution; **AND**

- a.) Accepted for admission to, or currently enrolled, in a course of instruction leading to licensure as a teacher in one of the hard-to-fill disciplines\* or one of the underserved geographic areas\*\* of Kansas; **OR**
- b.) Currently licensed as a teacher enrolled in a course of instruction leading to endorsement in one of the hard-to-fill disciplines\* or teach in one of the underserved geographic areas\*\* in Kansas; **OR**
- c.) Currently licensed as a teacher and been accepted for admission, or enrolled in a course of instruction leading to a master's degree in a field of education as a teacher in one of the hard-to-fill disciplines\*, or in one of the underserved geographic areas\*\* of Kansas.

**\*Hard-to-fill disciplines for 2008-09 are: Special Education, Mathematics, Science, Foreign Language, and English as a Second Language (ESL).**

**\*\*Underserved geographic areas for 2008-09 have been identified as: USD 501 Topeka; USD 500 Kansas City, KS; USD 259 Wichita and State Board of Education Area 5 (which includes all of the western 1/3 of the State of Kansas).**

**SERVICE OBLIGATION REQUIREMENT:**

As a condition for receipt of the scholarship, the recipient shall enter into an agreement with the State of Kansas in which they will agree to:

Complete the required course of instruction leading to licensure and full endorsement in a field of education as a teacher in your selected hard-to-fill teaching discipline or in an underserved geographic area in the State of Kansas;

Obtain and maintain necessary licensure and endorsement as specified in the teaching agreement;

Engage in teaching in the hard-to-fill discipline or in an underserved geographic area in the State of Kansas, within six months of licensure, in an accredited public or private elementary or secondary school on a full-time basis for a period of not less than the length of the course of instruction for which the scholarship was awarded or commence teaching on a part-time basis for a period of time that is equivalent to full-time, multiplied by the length of the course of instruction for which the scholarship was awarded.

If a recipient is unable to fulfill the service obligation they will be subject to repaying the amount of the scholarship that they received plus accrued interest at a rate which is equivalent to the interest rate applicable to loans made under the federal PLUS program at the time the agreement was first entered into plus five percentage points (currently as of 7/1/07 that interest rate is 13.5%).

**Recipients:**

First priority in awarding goes to Junior and Senior level college students (Freshmen rarely receive this award) and currently licensed teachers who meet the outlined criteria and provide an official copy of all academic transcripts and at least one academic, or employment-related (current teachers only), letter of recommendation. This is a merit-based scholarship. The average GPA of recipients has been 3.50. The number of designees is dependent on state funding levels.

**Deadline:**

May 1

**Award Amount:**

Recipients may be eligible for up to \$5,000 (\$2,500/semester) during 2008-09. The funding amount will be as follows:

- 12 + hours - \$2,500/per semester
- 9 – 11 hours - \$2,000/per semester
- 6 – 8 hours - \$1,500/per semester
- 3 – 5 hours - \$1,000/per semester

**Renewals:**

Recipients receive a renewal agreement and promissory note, from the Board of Regents, which must be signed and returned. The federal application and the state application must be completed **each year**.