



KANSAS TEACHER SERVICE SCHOLARSHIP

This **service obligation scholarship program** provides financial assistance to both students pursuing bachelor's or master'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 (K-12) in an underserved geographic area in Kansas**.

The Kansas Teacher Service Scholarship was enacted to support the need for licensed and fully endorsed teachers in the hard-to-fill disciplines and underserved geographic areas in the State of Kansas.

Applicants must be an established resident of the State of Kansas and attending a Kansas postsecondary institution; **AND**

- a) Enrolled in a program leading to licensure as a teacher in an identified hard-to-fill discipline* or underserved geographic area ** **OR**
- b) Currently licensed as a teacher and enrolled in a course of instruction leading to a new endorsement in one of the hard-to-fill disciplines* or teach in one of the underserved geographic areas** in Kansas; **OR**
- c) Currently licensed teachers enrolled in a program leading to a master's degree in an identified discipline* or underserved area** (**This scholarship is not a resource for Counseling, Administration or Reading/Library Specialist degrees**); **AND**
- d) Complete the FAFSA and the State of Kansas Student Aid Application.

***Identified hard-to-fill disciplines for 2020-2021 are:** Elementary Education, English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Special Education.

****Underserved Geographic Areas are:** 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).

All Kansas Teacher Service Scholarship NEW applicants must:

- ◇ Complete/submit the FAFSA at fafsa.gov AND complete/submit the State of Kansas Student Aid Application either online at <https://sfa.kansasregents.org/> or the paper application, and the Kansas Teacher Service Scholarship form (found at www.kansasregents.org, or page 17 of the paper application).
- ◇ Submit all official college transcripts from institutions where you've completed coursework.***
- ◇ Submit at least one letter of recommendation, on letterhead, from an academic or employment-related professional.
- ◇ Submit a one-page personal statement of your academic and teaching goal, including your personal commitment to teaching in your field or area.
- ◇ If a current teacher, submit a copy of your teaching certificate or licensure.

*** *High school transcripts are not accepted. If you have graduate school hours include a transcript of your graduate work to date in addition to your undergraduate transcript(s).*

All RENEWAL applicants must complete the FAFSA (priority deadline April 1) and the State of Kansas Student Aid Application (Priority deadline May 1) each school year that they wish to receive the scholarship. Renewal applicants are those who received funds the previous academic year. Renewals do NOT submit new transcripts and other materials annually.

Submit the state application and all additional documents to:

Kansas Board of Regents: 1000 SW Jackson St, Ste 520, Topeka, KS 66612

Alternatively, you may email materials to scholars@ksbor.org

Recipients:

First priority in awarding goes to **junior and senior level college students and currently licensed teachers** who meet the outlined criteria. **Funds are rarely available for freshman or sophomore students.** This is a merit-based scholarship and your cumulative college GPA factors largely into the awarding decision. The average GPA of past recipients has been 3.50. Students may be enrolled either part-time or full-time, at a minimum of 3 credit hours per semester.

Recipients are eligible to receive funding for **up to ten semesters**, which includes a combination of both undergraduate and graduate work and must continue to maintain satisfactory academic progress. Additional documentation may be required for the scholarship to transition from an undergraduate to graduate program. The number of recipients is dependent on state funding levels.

Award Amounts:

Recipients may be eligible for up to **\$5,536 (\$2,768/semester)** during the 2020-2021 school year. The funding amount is based on the number of credit hours taken per semester and is a set amount as follows:

12+ hours - \$2,768 per semester	9 –11 hours - \$2,217 per semester
6 – 8 hours - \$1,661 per semester	3 – 5 hours - \$1,107 per semester

Service Obligation Requirement:

Kansas Teacher Service Scholarship recipients will sign **an agreement/promissory note 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 the selected hard-to-fill teaching discipline or in an underserved geographic area in the State of Kansas (i.e., graduate from your education degree program);
- 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 a state-accredited public or private elementary or secondary school on a full-time basis for a period equal to the time 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.

Please Note: Fulfillment of your teaching obligation begins **AFTER** completion of your degree program, even if you do not receive the scholarship for the entire duration of your schooling. If you fail to graduate and obtain licensure as a teacher, you will not be able to fulfill your service obligation.

◆ If a recipient is unable to fulfill the service obligation, they will be subject to repaying the amount of the scholarship 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 that interest rate is 12.08%).