**Guidelines Effective August 1, 2026 (BHE 27-05)**

# Tomorrow's Teachers Scholarship Program

BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION
Massachusetts Office of Student Financial Assistance

## PURPOSE

The Tomorrow's Teachers Scholarship Program is funded subject to the availability of funds and appropriation from the Massachusetts Legislature M.G.L. c. 15A, Section 16. The program provides financial assistance to qualified high school and currently enrolled college students and is purposed to attract and encourage a diverse population of applicants to teach in the Massachusetts public school system. The scholarship is designed to provide financial assistance for tuition, fees, and related educational costs, as calculated by the institution in the Cost of Attendance (COA), for a bachelor's degree or post-baccalaureate coursework at an eligible public institution of higher education in the Commonwealth, that meets the certification requirements for employment at a Massachusetts public elementary or secondary school. This program is subject to appropriation.

## DEFINITIONS

- **Eligible Institution:**
  An eligible institution is defined as a 4-year public institution within the public system of higher education under Section 5 of Chapter 15A of the Massachusetts General Laws.

- **Eligible Program:**
  Any undergraduate degree or post-baccalaureate coursework in an approved educator preparation program at a 4-year public institution within the public system of higher education under Section 5 of Chapter 15A of the Massachusetts General Laws.

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## ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for the Tomorrow's Teachers Scholarship program, the student must:

a) be enrolled at an eligible institution, as defined;

b) (1) be a U.S. Citizen, permanent legal resident, or non-citizen eligible under Title IV regulations and physically reside in Massachusetts for at least one year, as of the start of the enrolled term with an intent to remain in Massachusetts consistent with Board of Higher Education policy; or (2) have an approved eligibility status designated by the Board of Higher Education pursuant to Section 9 of Chapter 15A, as amended by Section 11 of Chapter 28 of the Acts of 2023;

c) complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or, if ineligible to complete the FAFSA, then complete the Massachusetts Application for State Financial Aid (MASFA);

d) not be in default on any federal or state student loans or owe a refund for any previous state financial aid programs;

e) not have earned a prior bachelor's degree (or the equivalent), except for those pursuing or intending to pursue post-baccalaureate course work in an approved educator preparation program at a Massachusetts 4-year public institution of higher education;

f) enroll, as a matriculated student, in an undergraduate or post baccalaureate degree program, full-time (minimum of 12 credits, or the equivalent), unless otherwise agreed upon, in an approved course of study that meets the licensure requirements for employment at a Massachusetts public elementary or secondary school; and

g) meet satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) according to institution's requirements and federal standards.

h) Tomorrow's Teachers Scholarship recipients cannot also be eligible to receive funds under other financial aid workforce programs such as the Behavioral Health Workforce Scholarship, Early Childhood Educators Scholarship, or the Paraprofessional Grant. Students who simultaneously apply to any combination of the above programs can only be eligible for one.

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## PROGRAM CONDITIONS AND RECIPIENT RESPONSIBILITIES

- Complete the scholarship application and sign a promissory note, annually, for continuation of scholarship funds.

- Provide an official transcript at the conclusion of each academic year to confirm continued eligibility requirements for program of study and progress towards degree completion. Incoming first-year students are required to submit a declaration of their major from the institution's registrar's office.

- Sign a scholarship agreement to "obtain the appropriate certification in accordance with section 38G of chapter 71" and "commit to teaching for 4 years in a school district, as defined in section 2 of chapter 70, in the commonwealth." Failure to complete the required 4-year teaching service will result in a repayment of funds as defined in the agreement.

- Become employed as a teacher of record, within 12 months of degree completion or the completion of post-baccalaureate course work in an approved educator preparation program

- Annually provide proof of employment to document fulfillment of the service obligation

- Acknowledge that this scholarship is considered repayment through service and in absence of fulfilling that commitment, the scholarship reverts to a loan that must be repaid by the scholarship recipient, per the terms of the Scholarship Promissory Note.

- Acknowledge the set forth repayment through service schedule, that one year of teaching will forgive one year of scholarship.

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## STUDENT ELIGIBILITY BY ENROLLMENT INTENSITY AND DEGREE TYPE

Eligible students may be awarded Tomorrow's Teachers Scholarship funds as follows:

### Bachelor's Degree

| | |
|---|---|
| Full-Time | Maximum of 4 years, 8 semesters (120 credits) for full-time (minimum of 12 enrolled credits per academic term). |

### Post Baccalaureate Coursework

| | |
|---|---|
| Part-time | Maximum of 3 semesters (6 – 11 enrolled credits per academic term) |
| Full-time | Maximum of 3 semesters (minimum of 12 enrolled credits per academic term) |

## AWARD VALUE

Subject to appropriation and the availability of funds, the academic year award amount for eligible applicants under the Tomorrow's Teachers Scholarship shall not exceed $25,000 per student, as determined annually by the Department of Higher Education. The scholarship may be used to cover educational expenses included in the COA, as calculated by the institution. This may include, but is not limited to, tuition, fees, room and board, books and supplies, transportation, childcare, and personal expenses, for a bachelor's degree program or post-baccalaureate coursework.

Students at the undergraduate level may receive scholarship funds for up to a maximum of 4 years, 8 semesters (120 credits). An additional year of scholarship assistance may be awarded based on extenuating circumstances, with an approval of a written appeal.

Students pursuing post baccalaureate coursework may receive scholarship funds for up to a maximum of 3 semesters.

## AWARD CALCULATION

All students who meet the eligibility requirements and are enrolled in an undergraduate program or post-baccalaureate coursework, in an approved educator preparation

program may receive a Tomorrow's Teachers Scholarship award to cover Financial Unmet Need for costs associated educational expenses calculated in a student's COA (Cost of Attendance). Scholarship calculations for an eligible student is as follows:

***Tomorrow's Teachers Scholarship Award*** *(not to exceed $25,000 per academic year)*= Cost of Attendance **(minus)** Total Grant Aid

**Grant Aid: Total Federal Aid, Total Institutional Aid, Total State Aid, and Total Outside Aid*

## AWARD DISBURSEMENT

Participating institutions must verify that each recipient is eligible in accordance with guidelines established for the Tomorrow's Teachers Scholarship Program, and that the student is enrolled in an approved educator preparation program.

Institutions are required to refund to the Department any funds that are deemed to have been improperly awarded and disbursed to recipients who are later determined to be ineligible for the Tomorrow's Teachers Scholarship Program.

Additionally, disbursement of awards will not be made until the student's signed promissory note has been received and approved.

**Forfeiture of Scholarship Award**:

Recipients of the Tomorrow's Teachers Scholarship Program who fail to complete their teaching obligation, are required to repay all scholarship funds, as outlined in the promissory note.

## ANNUAL REVIEW

The Department of Higher Education (DHE) is responsible for evaluating the effectiveness of the Tomorrow's Teachers Scholarship program. Institutions that have signed an agreement to participate in the Massachusetts State financial aid programs are required to share data for all students with the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education or its designee, and the Office of Student Financial Assistance for this purpose. The program may be evaluated annually to determine any immediate impact or to determine if adjustments are required for various processes, such as disbursement of funds.

## PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT

All institutions receiving funds under the Tomorrow's Teachers Scholarship program must have an active Massachusetts State Financial Aid Participation Agreement on file with the Massachusetts Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA).

## AUDIT REQUIREMENT

a) It shall be the responsibility of each college to maintain documentation of a recipient student's eligibility for the Tomorrow's Teachers Scholarship program.

b) The Commissioner shall require each college to furnish annually to the BHE a report detailing specific information regarding recipients of the Tomorrow's Teachers Scholarship program. OSFA will establish the timeline, specifications, and procedures for this report.

c) All financial books, records and documents pertaining to this Program shall, at all times, be open to inspection, review and audit by the Commissioner, the State Auditor or their authorized representatives who shall have access to the premises wherever such books, records, and documents are for seven years. An institution may retain such records for a period of five years, if approval is received from the Records Conservation Board in accordance with General Laws, Chapter 30, Section 42.