



SPECIAL ALERT

STATE OF CALIFORNIA



Update from the California Student Aid Commission

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GSA 2021-36

TO: Financial Aid Administrators
Deans, Schools of Education

FROM: Tae Kang *Tae Kang*
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SUBJECT: **Golden State Teacher Grant Program**

On June 30, 2021, Governor Gavin Newsom signed the 2021-22 Budget Act into law. Additionally, Assembly Bill 132 (AB 132, Chapter 144, Statutes of 2021), enacted on July 27, 2021 provides the authority behind the broadening of the Golden State Teacher Grant (GSTG) program. This Special Alert announces updates to the Golden State Teacher Grant (GSTG) program administered by the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC).

Background

The 2021-22 budget adds \$500 million to GSTG program and AB 132 broadens eligibility for awards to students currently enrolled in a professional teacher preparation program in a high needs field such as: special education, multiple subject teaching instruction, transitional kindergarten, bilingual education, science, technology, engineering, mathematics, STEM, including computer science, technology, engineering, mathematics, STEM areas, and other subjects. AB 132 also extends eligibility for participation in the program to students in teacher preparation programs approved by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing beyond those offered by institutions of higher education. These include teacher internship and teacher residency programs.

Golden State Teacher Grant Program Benefits

The GSTG program encourages students to consider earning a teaching credential to teach in a high-need field, at a priority school, in California for four years, within five years after completing a teacher preparation program.

California Education Code, Section 69617 as amended by AB 132, and the 2021-22 Budget Act provides \$500 million and broadens the program parameters beyond the previous award year which limited the program to Special Education (SB 74, Statutes of 2020). CSAC will award one-time GSTG funds of up to \$20,000 to eligible students in variety of high need fields. Participants must be enrolled in a Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) approved teacher preparation program within a California institution of higher education or through a local education agency. **Participants will sign a Teaching Service Agreement to fulfill the required teaching commitment or repay the grant at 25 percent per year up to the full amount of the grant.**

Under the GSTG program, participants must teach in a designated high need field for 4 years, within 5 years of completing their teacher preparation program, in a priority school. For GSTG purposes, priority schools (AB 132) are defined as a school with 55 percent or more of its pupils being unduplicated pupils, as defined in subdivision (b) of California Education Code Section 42238.02. The CTC in consultation with the California Department of Education (CDE) will publish a list of priority schools, based on the most recent data available to the CTC and CDE.

GSTG Administration

CSAC will provide GSTG awards of up to \$20,000, with the award amounts determined by the institutions of higher education, and by the applicable local teacher preparation programs to eligible students enrolled in a CTC approved teacher preparation program. Candidates will need to work with their Office of Financial Aid or program administrators to determine, and agree to, the appropriate award amount up to \$20,000. CSAC is updating our packaging guidance in the GSTG Coordinators' Guide which will be distributed soon. These grant funds may be used to offset student loans.

Awarding Process

2021-22 GSTG awards will be provided to teacher candidates attending a California institution of higher education or teacher internship/residency programs with CTC approved teacher preparation programs according to the applications received. Applications are currently being accepted for the 2021-22 academic year. To be considered for funding, students must be currently enrolled in an approved teacher preparation program leading to a credential to teach in a high need field as specified in Education Code Section 69617(e). CSAC will continue to provide awards until program funds are exhausted or through June 30, 2024, *(or a date to be determined in statute)* whichever comes first. Candidates may apply via CSAC's website at:

<https://gstg.csac.ca.gov>

CTC's list of priority schools for the required teaching service may be found at:

<https://www.ctc.ca.gov/commission/notices/gs-teacher-list>

Next Steps from CSAC:

1. CSAC is accepting applications via our website and will provide reports to campuses to track their applicants. Upon submission, applicants will be informed that CSAC will contact them via email. Updated program details will follow in the Golden State Teachers Grant Coordinators Guide.
2. Teaching agreements and awards are currently projected to be in fall 2021.
3. CSAC will post an updated Frequently Asked Questions page on the GSTG website listed above.
4. CSAC will track program participants' teaching employment and repayment status based on the five years required to complete their four-year teaching obligation.

Need to contact us?

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