



SPECIAL ALERT

STATE OF CALIFORNIA



Update from the California Student Aid Commission

February 25, 2021

GSA 2021-06

TO: Financial Aid Administrators

FROM: Tae Kang *Tae Kang*
Deputy Director, Program Administration and Services Division

SUBJECT: **Golden State Teacher Grant Program**

On June 29, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom signed the 2020-21 Budget Act into law. This Special Alert announces implementation of the Golden State Teacher Grant (GSTG) program administered by the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC).

Background: The 2019-20 Budget Act included \$88 million to fund awards to aspiring teachers in high need fields. Subsequent to the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020-21 budget removed the \$88 million appropriation and re-authorized CSAC to provide \$15 million from federal funds through the California Department of Education (CDE) for candidates enrolled in **special education** teacher preparation programs who agree to teach at a priority school.

GSTG Program Benefits

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

Consistent with California Education Code, Section 69617, and the 2020-21 Budget Act which provides \$15 million and limits 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. Participants must be enrolled in a Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) approved teacher preparation program within a California institution of higher education. **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 the high need field of special education for 4 years, within 5 years of completing their teacher preparation program, in a priority school. For GSTG purposes, priority schools are defined as either a school with a high percentage, as determined by the CTC in consultation with the CDE, of teachers holding emergency-type permits, or of low income students, 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, to eligible students enrolled in a CTC approved teacher preparation program. Candidates will need to work with their Office of Financial Aid to determine the appropriate award amount up to \$20,000. CSAC has included packaging guidance in the Golden State Teacher Grant Program Coordinator Guide, which accompanies this Special Alert. These funds may be used to offset student loans.

Campus Allocations

2020-21 GSTG awards will be provided to teacher candidates attending a California institution of higher education with CTC approved teacher preparation programs according to the applications received. Applications are currently being accepted and those who applied for the 2019-20 academic year will need to re-apply for the 2020-21 academic year. To be considered for funding, students must be currently enrolled in an approved teacher preparation program leading to a credential to teach special education. CSAC will continue to provide awards until program funds are exhausted or through June 30, 2023, 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. Please see the attached Golden State Teacher Grant Coordinators Guide for program details.
2. CSAC is working with CDE to complete an interagency agreement as soon as possible to transfer the federal funds for awards to CSAC.
3. CSAC will post a Frequently Asked Questions page on the GSTG website.
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?

- E-mail: goldenstateteachers@csac.ca.gov

Enclosure: Golden State Teacher Grant Program Coordinator Guide

Working together to effectively promote education beyond high school!