



Golden State Teacher Grant (GSTG) Program Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Eligibility

Is my institution/program eligible?

All students applying for the GSTG Program must be currently enrolled in an approved teacher preparation program within an accredited California institution of higher education, a teacher preparation program approved by the Commission on Teaching Credentialing (CTC) that has a main campus in California or Local Education Agency (LEA) approved by the CTC.

For a current list of CTC approved teacher preparation programs, please visit <https://www.ctc.ca.gov/commission/reports/data/approved-institutions-and-programs>.

Are BA and MA integrated programs eligible?

Integrated programs (BA and MA) meet the CTC approved “traditional” teacher preparation program because they “primarily serve undergraduate students without prior teaching or work experience and leads at least to a bachelor’s degree.”

So, if the student is enrolled in the integrated program at an approved CTC teacher preparation school and is working toward their preliminary credential with the intent to teach at a priority school in a high-need field, they would be eligible.

Are Designated Subjects Career Technical Education (DS CTE) programs eligible?

No, DS CTE programs are not currently eligible for the GSTG. According to statute, one of the eligibility requirements is that a participant currently be enrolled in a professional preparation program leading to a preliminary credential. DS CTE programs do not meet this requirement.

How is bilingual education high-need field eligibility defined?

At this time, the CTC has determined that Bilingual Education refers to participants who commit to teach their 4 years at a priority school in either instruction to English Learner (EL) designated courses or dual immersion programs. To be eligible for GSTG, a participant must be currently enrolled in an approved teacher preparation program leading to a preliminary credential in conjunction with the Bilingual Authorization that can be added onto any preliminary credential. Pursuing the Bilingual Authorization alone is not eligible for the GSTG.

If the CTC expands the definition and/or adds additional high-need fields in the future, we will communicate the updated information with all schools.

Application Process

Is the FAFSA/CADAA required for Local Education Agency (LEA) students?

Yes, the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#) or [California Dream Act Application \(CADAA\)](#) (if applicable) is required for all GSTG applicants.

My LEA is not listed on the FAFSA/CADAA?

Your LEA will not be listed on either the FAFSA or CADAA. Please reach out to your LEA for school selection. Once complete, download your Student Aid Report (SAR) and provide it to your institution so that the necessary information can be obtained and your GSTG application can be processed.

Can I make changes to my application?

You can update most information on your GSTG Application except for your social security number, name, date of birth (DOB), and email address.

To make the changes, please log into your student portal for the GSTG on <https://gstg.csac.ca.gov/>. Once logged in, please select the New/Update Application link located under the Student Menu.

If you need to make changes to your social security number, DOB, and/or email address, please contact the GSTG team at goldenstateteachers@csac.ca.gov. If you need to make changes to your name, provide two copies of identification and email them encrypted to goldenstateteachers@csac.ca.gov.

What is the Teaching Agreement (TA)?

The TA outlines your obligations including repayment requirements under the provisions of the grant. When a participant receives the TA, they must sign it within 30 days. To sign your TA, log into your student portal for the GSTG on <https://gstg.csac.ca.gov/>. Once logged in, please select Teaching Agreement located under the Student Menu.

After I submit my application, what happens?

After you submit your application, your institution will verify your eligibility and determine your award amount for the GSTG.

After your institution verifies your eligibility, you will receive an email notification prompting you to log into your GSTG student portal to acknowledge and sign the TA. Please check your junk/spam folder frequently, as the notification may end up in there.

After you sign the TA, your payment will be requested from the State Controller's Office (SCO) and the funds will be mailed to your institution. Your grant will be evenly disbursed among all terms you are enrolled.

Payment Process

What is the anticipated timeline for payment processing?

For the 2022-23 academic year, we anticipate processing payments for each term according to the following timeline:

- Fall – early August
- Winter – early November
- Spring (2 term programs) – early January
- Spring (3 and 4 term programs) – early March
- Summer – mid-April

Please note that it takes approximately 4-6 weeks for your check to arrive at your school once term payment processing has begun and your TA has been signed.

Repayment

Do I have to pay interest?

No, the repayment is for funds awarded only. The repayment requirement will only be enacted if you fail to meet your teaching obligation. The TA outlines your obligations under the provisions of the grant.

Do I have to repay the entire award if I teach at a priority school for less than 4 years?

For every year your teaching obligation is not met, you will be required to repay 25% of your total awarded amount. For those years your obligation is met, no repayment will be necessary.

So, if your obligation is met for:

- 1 year = Repay 75% of the awarded amount
- 2 years = Repay 50% of the awarded amount
- 3 years = Repay 25% of the awarded amount
- 4 years = No Repayment, obligation complete

Do I have to repay or find a new job if my school is removed from the priority list?

The California Student Aid Commission (Commission) in coordination with the California Department of Education (CDE) will publish a list of priority schools by January 1 of each year for which funds have been appropriated by the Legislature to support grants pursuant to this section.

We will verify your employment using the priority school list published for the academic year in which you are initially employed at the school. If your school falls off the list, you will be grandfathered eligibility as long as you remain employed there.

The list of priority schools for each academic year is available on the CTC website at: <https://www.ctc.ca.gov/commission/notices/gs-teacher-list>.

Will time teaching prior to completion of my program count towards my teaching obligation?

The 4-year teaching obligation begins once the teacher preparation program is completed. Any time teaching prior to completing your program is not counted towards the obligation.

Will time teaching in a classified or certificated position count? (For example, does my first year working as the Special Education aide count before I move the next year to the head teacher position?)

The 4-year teaching obligation begins once you complete your teacher preparation program. Any time teaching prior to completing your program or not being listed as the teacher of record is not counted towards the obligation.