



The University of North Carolina

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

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MEMORANDUM

To: Committee on Educational Planning, Policies, and Programs

From: Charles R. Coble
Vice President for University-Schools Programs

Date: December 20, 2001

Re: Teacher Assistant Scholarship Program

The General Assembly initiated a new scholarship program during the 2001 session to encourage teacher assistants to pursue undergraduate degrees leading to initial teacher licensure. The North Carolina State Education Assistance Authority has been instructed to administer the funds and the Board of Governors is asked to adopt rules to implement the scholarship program.

Attached are three items for your review:

- 1) Legislation establishing the Teacher Assistant Scholarship Program;
- 2) Proposed policies for administration of the funds; and
- 3) Draft announcement of the program.

We will present these items for your review at the January meeting.

Thank you.

Appalachian State
University

East Carolina
University

Elizabeth City
State University

Fayetteville State
University

North Carolina
Agricultural and
Technical State
University

North Carolina
Central University

North Carolina
School of
the Arts

North Carolina
State University
at Raleigh

University of
North Carolina
at Asheville

University of
North Carolina
at Chapel Hill

University of
North Carolina
at Charlotte

University of
North Carolina
at Greensboro

University of
North Carolina
at Pembroke

University of
North Carolina
at Wilmington

Western Carolina
University

Winston-Salem
State University

Requested by: Representatives Boyd-McIntyre, Rogers, Yongue, Easterling, Oldham, Redwine, Thompson

TEACHER ASSISTANT SCHOLARSHIP FUND

SECTION 31.5.(a) Article 23 of Chapter 116 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new section to read:

"§ 116-209.35. Teacher Assistant Scholarship Fund.

(a) There is established the Teacher Assistant Scholarship Fund. The purpose of the Fund is to provide scholarships to teacher assistants who are pursuing college degrees to become teachers. The State Education Assistance Authority shall administer the Fund.

(b) Criteria for awarding the scholarships shall be developed by the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina in consultation with the State Board of Education and the State Board of Community Colleges and shall include all of the following:

- (1) An applicant shall be employed full time as a teacher assistant in North Carolina.
- (2) An applicant shall be enrolled in an accredited bachelors degree program in an institution of higher education in North Carolina.
- (3) An applicant shall be a resident of North Carolina. For purposes of this section, residency shall be determined by the same standard as residency for tuition purposes pursuant to G.S. 116-143.1.
- (4) Any additional criteria that the Board of Governors considers necessary to administer the Fund effectively, including all of the following:
 - a. Consideration of the appropriate numbers of minority applicants and applicants from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds to receive scholarships pursuant to this section.
 - b. Consideration of the academic qualifications of the individuals applying to receive funds.
 - c. Consideration of the commitment an individual applying to receive funds demonstrates to the profession of teaching.

(c) The scholarships shall be available for part-time or full-time course work through all off-campus or distance education teacher education programs.

(d) The Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina, the State Board of Education, and the State Board of Community Colleges shall: (i) prepare a clear written explanation of the Teacher Assistant Scholarship Fund and the information regarding the availability and criteria for awarding the scholarships, and (ii) shall provide that information to the appropriate counselors in each local school system and shall charge those counselors to inform teacher assistants about the scholarships and to encourage teacher assistants to apply for the scholarships.

(e) The Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina shall adopt rules to implement this section.

(f) The Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina shall report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee by March 1 each year regarding the Fund and scholarships awarded from the Fund."

SECTION 31.5.(b) Of the funds appropriated by this Act to the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina the sum of one million dollars (\$1,000,000) shall be allocated to the State Education Assistance Authority to implement this section.

DRAFT

Announcement

Teacher Assistant Scholarship Fund for Four Year College Students for the 2001-2002 Academic Year

Four Year Teacher Licensure Program

The Teacher Assistant Scholarship Fund provides scholarships to individuals who are employed full time as teacher assistants in the public schools of North Carolina and who are pursuing degrees at four year colleges with the goal of becoming teachers. The award amount is \$1,600 for the fall semester, \$1,600 for the spring semester and \$1,600 for the summer, divided into equal payments for each summer session a student is enrolled. The program is funded by the North Carolina General Assembly and administered by the State Education Assistance Authority.

Who Is Eligible?

This scholarship program is designed for individuals pursuing initial teacher licensure at four year colleges and universities. Candidates must be employed full-time as teacher assistants in North Carolina public schools and have the endorsement of their school principals, must attend a public or private North Carolina college or university with a North Carolina approved teacher education program and must be North Carolina residents for tuition purposes as determined by the same standard as residency for tuition purposes pursuant to G.S. 116-143.1.

The Requirements

Recipients must remain employed full-time as teacher assistants in North Carolina while pursuing initial teacher licensure, except for the methods semester and/or student teaching semester. Recipients must annually complete 12 semester hours within the period of September 1 through August 31, must attempt 6 semester hours during any term for which they are funded and must meet the satisfactory academic progress standards of the enrolling institution.

To Apply

The application is available here for download:

(requires the free [Acrobat Reader](#))

- [Download application](#) - 376kb pdf file

The deadline for submitting completed applications is _____, 2002. Awards will be announced by _____, 2002.

For More Information or for a paper application, please contact:

TASF- Teacher Assistant Scholarship Fund
c/o Robbie Schultz, Program Coordinator
North Carolina State Education Assistance Authority
PO Box 13663
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709-3663

(919) 248-4686 (phone)

(919) 248-4687 (fax)

robbie@ncseaa.edu (e-mail)

TEACHER ASSISTANT SCHOLARSHIP FUND
FOUR-YEAR TEACHER LICENSURE PROGRAM
Summary of Policies: 2001-2002

1. Applicant must be a legal resident of North Carolina and a U.S. citizen who does not already hold teacher licensure. Applicant must not be in default on any student loan.
2. Applicant must be currently employed as a full-time teacher assistant in a North Carolina public school, and must remain employed as a full-time teacher assistant while pursuing teacher licensure, except for the methods semester and/or student teaching semester.
3. Applicant must provide a completed Projected Program of Study summary (on form provided in application packet) signed by an appropriate official at the institution he/she is/will be attending.
4. Applicant must have the endorsement of the principal of the employing school. Such endorsement indicates the principal's understanding that the applicant intends to pursue higher education while remaining employed full-time as a teacher assistant.
5. There is no limit in the number of candidates from a school who may receive scholarships.
6. A recipient of a scholarship must attend a public or private North Carolina college or university with a North Carolina approved teacher education program. Scholarships may be used to obtain credit through distance education or off-campus courses (with the approval of the student's advisor).
7. Recipients are eligible to receive funds only for study leading to initial licensure as a teacher.
8. Recipients will be allocated \$1,600.00 per semester for the Fall and Spring Semesters. Allocations of up to \$1,600 will be available for qualifying candidates for a full summer session. Recipients who do not plan to enroll in coursework each semester will indicate the semester they anticipate actual enrollment and allocations will be adjusted appropriately. Future adjustments in semester amounts will be made by the State Education Assistance Authority based on costs of education and available funds.
9. Recipients may be renewed for subsequent years subject to sufficient available funds from the North Carolina General Assembly provided a renewal application is filed on a timely basis, and the recipient earned 12 semester hours toward teacher licensure within the period of September 1 through August 31 while meeting the satisfactory academic progress requirements of the enrolling institution.