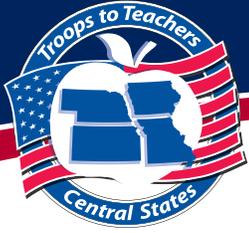


TROOPS TO TEACHERS



✦ JEFFERSON CITY OFFICE
877.530.2765

✦ ST. LOUIS OFFICE
314.729.2444

✦ KANSAS CITY OFFICE
816.241.1705

CHAD SCHATZ, DIRECTOR OF VETERANS EDUCATION AND TRAINING/TROOPS TO TEACHERS, DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION



How does the Troops to Teachers program work?

The Troops to Teachers program is designed to help former active duty soldiers and members of the National Guard and Reserves transition to high-need public school teachers, with a potential bonus or stipend to help with certification courses only and expenses associated with the transition.

Regional Troops to Teachers offices work with school districts to promote the program, provide counseling and help candidates with certification issues in their state. The program was established in 1994.

How do you identify veterans who want to become a teacher?

Methodology for identifying veterans who might want to become teachers includes informational briefings at military bases and following up on inquiries from soldiers by phone and email.

What resources are available to succeed with the Troops to Teachers' mission?

Resources that are used to make the program successful include a contractual agreement with the State of Missouri's Workforce Development Veterans Representatives that includes training for Missouri Vet Reps performed by Central States Troops to Teachers staff members, giving coverage to the state.

DVDs, television, radio and regional publications are utilized, and institutions granting teacher certification are provided with program information that they can use for recruiting purposes.

Interacting with the Veterans Administration is also a key component. The larger functions and financing for our office comes from the VA for approvals and compliance of schools, colleges and on-the-job training programs; therefore the combination of TTT and VA programs is a good fit.

Financial assistance, pending availability of funds, may be provided as stipends up to \$5,000 to pay for certification costs or bonuses of \$10,000 to teach in schools serving a high percentage of students from low-income families. Participants accepting stipend or bonus money must agree to teach for three years in schools that serve students from low-income families in accordance with authorizing legislation.

How is the program financed?

Troops to Teachers is a U.S. Department of Education and Department of Defense program managed by the Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support in Pensacola, Florida. Funding is established by the U.S. Department of Education.



TROOPS TO TEACHERS



SCAN CODE AND BE THE FIRST
ONE TO LEAVE A MESSAGE.
MENTION THAT YOU USED THIS
CODE AND RECEIVE A FREE GIFT.

TO FIND OUT IF YOU ARE ELIGIBLE FOR GI BILL EDUCATION AND TRAINING BENEFITS, CALL 888.442.4551

Chad Schatz, Troops To Teachers Cont.

How widely does the program operate? And what is your specific area of service?

Troops to Teachers is a national program. The Central States Troops to Teachers program includes Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska and Kansas, with the main office in Jefferson City.

How many veterans have been placed as teachers with the programs?

In the past year, we have placed almost 50 teachers in Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska and Kansas. Nationally, more than 17,000 veterans have been placed in public school classrooms. Approximately 263 Missouri Troops to Teacher participants have taught at least five years or more, and 1,246 have registered for the program since its inception.

Why teachers? Are their other opportunities within the program?

The program currently serves only teachers by legislation.

What military skills are translatable into a career as a teacher?

In that the military trains its own, teaching methodology is top notch and detail oriented. The teaching strategies and technology in the military make for an efficient transition for public school teaching.

Jobs in the military include a wide variety of specialties, and many translate well to public school teaching.

What is the process for a veteran wishing to become a teacher through your program? From where do they receive their certification?

The first step in entering the Troops to Teachers program is to register. To do so, call 1-877-530-2765, or email Chad.Schatz@dese.mo.gov.

Those seeking to teach in Missouri who have certification questions may contact Debbie Butcher at 573-751-7863 or email Debbie.Butcher@dese.mo.gov.



STATE TEACHER JOB VACANCY SITES

Looking for a new job? These are some links that may prove useful for finding certified and substitute teaching jobs. For a more complete listing go to our website:

WWW.TROOPSTOTEACHERS.MO.GOV

MO: <http://www.moteachingjobs.com/>

IA: <http://www.iowaeducationjobs.com/>

NE: <http://www.nebraskaeducationjobs.com/>

KS: <http://www.kansasteachingjobs.com/>

MISSOURI/IOWA/NEBRASKA/KANSAS

Chad Schatz, Director

John Hose, Assistant Director

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Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

Veterans Education and Training Section

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TEACHER CERTIFICATION CONTACT INFORMATION

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NEBRASKA

Bethina Garrett p: 402.471.0739

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website: <http://www.education.ne.gov/tcert>

KANSAS

Susan Helbert p: 785.296.2289

e-mail: shelbert@ksde.org

TROOPS TO TEACHERS MENTORS

We are pleased to have a list of mentors on our web site. These people have successfully been through the process from start to finish. They are offering their thoughts, insights, and encouragement to others pursuing their goals of becoming teachers.

WANT TO BECOME A MENTOR?

The advice and guidance you will provide is invaluable to fellow veterans interested in starting careers as K-12 public school teachers.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO VOLUNTEER TO BE A MENTOR?

Visit: DESE.TroopsToTeachers@DESE.mo.gov or

click here to join us: <http://dese.mo.gov/sites/default/files/TTT-MENTOR%20CONNECTION-%2006-14>

VETERAN'S EDUCATION & TRAINING SECTION

MISSOURI STATE APPROVING AGENCY



THE JOINT SERVICE TRANSCRIPT

Find out what college credit you've earned for your military experience. The Joint Service Transcript is a joint military service transcript showing American Council on Education (ACE) credit recommendations for the Army, Coast Guard, Navy, and Marines. For the Coast Guard, the JST is available for active duty, reserve, civilian, spouses of active duty, and Auxiliary members.

MILITARY EDUCATION AND TRAINING

President Obama signed Executive Order 13607 urging colleges to accept military education. It urges the creation of an Evaluated educational plan. This is an official academic document provided by the educational institution that:

- (1) articulates all degree requirements required for degree completion or, in the case of a non-degree program, all educational requirements for completion of the program;
- (2) identifies all courses required for graduation in the individual's intended academic discipline and level of postsecondary study; and includes an evaluation of all successfully completed prior coursework as well as an evaluation of credit for military training, experience, and other credit sources applied to the institutional degree requirements.

Military education and training should be evaluated for prior credit.

Army, Marine Corps, and Navy are now using a Joint Services Transcript (JST), (Does not include Air Force. The USAF uses the Community College of the Air Force (CCAF))

Information needed to evaluate military education and training is available online.

What is Joint Service Transcript (JST)?

Joint Service Transcript

The Joint Service Transcript is a joint military service transcript showing ACE credit recommendations for the Army, Coast Guard, Navy, and Marines. For the Coast Guard, the JST is available for active duty, reserve, civilian, spouses of active duty, and Auxiliary members. Spouses and Auxiliary members will have to request access through the Registrar's Office (RO) to be added to the system.

Unofficial Transcript

By clicking on the JST site, you can locate your unofficial transcript. Members can use their CAC card to log into the site. Individuals who do not have a CAC card, can set up an account and log into the system.

STAFF

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Room 22

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St. Louis, MO 63127

314.729.2444

CLICK HERE FOR SCHOOL CERTIFYING OFFICIAL TRAINING & INFORMATION RESOURCES

or go to: http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/school_training_resources.asp

Military Education and Training Continued

It is advised that members check their unofficial transcript to make sure that all courses and occupations are listed.

- Official Transcript
- Log into the JST to request an official transcript.
- Omissions on JST Transcript: Complete the Application for Correction to JST Application for Correction Form CGI-1562.

Documents to assist members:

- Degree Completion Tips
- Education Information
- JST Frequently Asked Questions

To get a copy of your USAF transcript from the CCAF, here are the Transcript Procedures

A. To order an official transcript the following 2 options are available:

(1) Written request - No Cost

This process typically takes 10-15 business days from day of order to receive the transcript. The request must include member's full name, last four of member's SSN, date of birth, transcript address "home, college, etc.." and physical signature

Mail request to:

CCAF/DESS
100 SOUTH TURNER BLVD
MAXWELL AFB GUNTER ANNEX, AL
36114

(2) Credentials Solutions:

This third party company provides 24/7 access and can deliver via first class mail or FedEx Express Overnight service for the member

A nominal fee is charged and not covered by the Air Force

www.credentials-inc.com/cgi-bin/dvcgitp.pgm?ALUMTRO012308

B. To view an unofficial transcript (available for Active Duty only):

- (1) Access the Air Force Virtual Education Center through the Air Force Portal
- (2) Under the Self Service section select CCAF View Progress Report
- (3) In the Student Tools banner select "View My Unofficial Transcript"

Questions regarding the above procedures can be directed to:

CCAF/Student Services - commercial 334-649-5066

Useful links:

<http://www.jointservicetranscript.com/>

<https://jst.doded.mil/smart/signIn.do>

<http://www.au.af.mil/au/barnes/ccaf/index.asp>



A dedicated toll-free hotline is now available
FOR SCHOOL CERTIFYING OFFICIALS (SCOS) ONLY.

Toll-free hotline number 1 (855) 225.1159

The hotline is available from 7:00 am to 5:00 pm, Central Time. SCOs must provide the school's facility code and be listed as a designated VA school certifying official to receive assistance through the dedicated hotline.

TO FIND OUT IF YOU ARE ELIGIBLE FOR VETERANS EDUCATION AND TRAINING BENEFITS, OR TO SEE HOW MUCH YOUR ENTITLEMENT IS, CALL 888.442.4551.

SWEET DREAMS PILLOW

The Sweet Dream Picture Pillows are available to the children of any family whose father or mother is on active duty and will be absent from their family for at least three months.

Visit our website at:

<http://www.pillowprojectusa.com>



SHARE THIS NEWSLETTER This newsletter is being e-mailed to one person at each school. Please share this newsletter with all other Certifying Officials, Education officers, Unit Commanders and personnel, the Bursar's or Comptroller's Office, Human Relations office, Financial Aid Office and other interested individuals at your school/business/Unit.

It is extremely important that the information in this newsletter receives the widest dissemination in order that veterans receive the GI Bill and other educational benefits to which they are entitled. If you are reading this, email: john.parker@dese.mo.gov to receive a gift.

We do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities. Inquiries related to Department programs and to the location of services, activities, and facilities that are accessible by persons with disabilities may be directed to:

Jefferson State Office Building, Civil Rights Compliance (Title VI/Title IX/504/ADA/Age Act) 205 Jefferson Street, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0480p: 573.526.4757 or Relay Missouri p: 800.735.2966.



Kansas State Department of Education **A+** Report Card 2012-2013



MESSAGE FROM THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION

This is an exciting time for education in Kansas. The Kansas College and Career Ready Standards are alive and well in the classroom improving student learning by challenging students to develop a deeper understanding of subject matter, learn how to think critically and apply what they are learning to the real world. These standards are preparing Kansas students for more than just high school graduation day, they are preparing students for the rest of their lives.

The Kansas Report Card is a collection of data compiled annually to provide information not only on a statewide basis but also by district and by building. As Kansas continues its transition to higher education standards for college and career readiness, many schools experienced a decline in the results of their students' latest state assessment scores. While this is never a desired outcome, in a time of transition it is certainly not altogether unexpected. Assessments are a critical component of the education process, but this transition period has created a bit of an anomaly. Because the new standards assessment was not available for the 2012-13 assessment period, students were assessed using the existing testing tool which is no longer aligned with the new instruction. As such, we caution the use of recent assessment scores as a true indication of the student's progress.

We are on a new course in Kansas. With new standards, comes new knowledge and new skills that better align to the needs of the future workforce. Today's Kansas students will be better prepared to meet these needs than in any other point in history. We think that's pretty exciting.

<http://svapp15586.ksde.org/rcard/>

More information about educator preparation in Kansas can found at www.ksde.org

NEBRASKA

NEBRASKA EDUCATION OFFICIALS SCRAP TEST SCORES

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) - Nebraska education officials are throwing out the results of statewide writing tests plagued by technological problems.

The Nebraska Department of Education announced Tuesday it would not publish the scores in the department's annual State of the Schools report, The Lincoln Journal Star (<http://bit.ly/Unni40>) reported. Eighth- and 11th-graders took an online version of the writing test in February and reported a slew of problems. State officials say at least 1,500 students from 87 districts lost work or were kicked offline during one 40-minute stretch. That's about 3 percent of the district's 44,000 students in those grades. They don't know how many students may have been affected at other times, which is why they decided to throw out the results. The tests are also given to fourth-graders, but they took them with paper and pencil and didn't face the same problems.

The state contracts with Minnesota-based Data Recognition Corp. to administer the test. Education officials haven't determined if they will pay the \$177,000 owed for this year's tests, though the contract has been renewed for next year. Valorie Foy, director of statewide assessment for the Nebraska Department of Education, said 10 to 12 districts, including Lincoln and Omaha, sent letters detailing problems with the tests. About a third of the state's students are in districts that had issues. Parents will still get their students' scores, along with an explanation of the problems.

State officials haven't decided whether to send the results to the U.S. Department of Education as required by federal law. They did not send scores last year, although they did provide information on how many students took the test. Foy said she doesn't know what might happen if the district doesn't provide scores for a second year.

Associated Press http://www.thepublicopinion.com/news/associated_press/minnesota/nebraska-education-officials-scrap-test-scores/article_9d691bcd-63ec-51f3-9a41-50ac33b70947.html



More information about educator preparation in Nebraska can found at www.education.ne.gov/tcert

IOWA

REGENTS ALTERNATIVE PATHWAY TO IOWA LICENSURE



The University of Northern Iowa, The University of Iowa and Iowa State University have collaborated to design the Regents Alternative Pathway to Iowa Licensure (RAPIL) program to provide innovative and accessible opportunities for individuals wishing to teach.

Please complete the form below to express your interest in the program and/or ask any questions you may have. We will contact you with additional details and information about how to get started.

What is the purpose of the program?

The University of Northern Iowa, University of Iowa and Iowa State University designed the Regents Alternative Pathway to Iowa Licensure (RAPIL) to help talented professionals answer the call to teach. RAPIL allows the participant to be a salaried teacher in a secondary Iowa school, on a Teacher Intern License, for one year. Upon successful completion of the internship year and all program requirements, the candidate is recommended for the Initial Teaching License.

For more information go to: <http://www.iowateacherintern.org/>

More information about educator preparation in Iowa can found at <http://educateiowa.gov/>

MISSOURI

NIXON SIGNS EDUCATION BILL INTO LAW



Jefferson City – Students entering Missouri colleges with online credits could benefit from a new law, the bill’s Senate handler, David Pearce, said Thursday. “It is mainly designed for online education courses,” Pearce said. Gov. Jay Nixon signed House Bill 1389 into law. The law is designed to help Missouri’s higher education institutions offer distance education courses to students in other states. The law gives the responsibility for creating an interstate “authorization reciprocity agreement” to the Coordinating Board of Higher Education. “You would have agreements that those courses could be offered,” Pearce said.

Standards with the new law include establishing consumer protections policies for distance education, disclosing costs to students and dealing with student complaints. Taking online classes has proved difficult for some students. “Part of the challenge of distance learning is the chance that enrolling in an online class doesn’t always mean that class will work with a student’s educational goal,” Pearce said.

“Online classes and distance learning can be a gamble, both with a student’s time and money. Utilizing a reciprocity agreement helps to ensure classes are regulated and use similar evaluation methods so credits will advance a student’s education.” The law should reduce concerns, Pearce said.

“Allowing a reciprocity agreement among schools in other states will have long term benefits for Missouri students,” he said. “Traditional classes can occasionally be difficult for non-traditional students. Allowing for this exchange of credits between schools, especially in an online or distance program, will allow for high quality education with potentially lower costs.”

Colleges that offer Algebra I for online credit would have to show coursework is sufficient to meet standards if the student moves into an Algebra II class at a university. “So, the Department of Higher Education will say, yes, we do approve this as an Algebra II course, an Algebra III, or whatever, and then it would be up to the particular universities themselves to determine if they’re going to accept those (credits),” Pearce said. The agreement reduces work at the level of a single college.

“This would prevent UCM from having to have reciprocity agreements in every state,” he said. “They can just go to the higher education compact and do it one time.” Missouri is the eighth state to accept the agreement. The agreement broadly deals with online education, and in part adds to Missouri’s military friendly reputation by easing credit transfers from state to state, Pearce said, which may help students who are in the military. Missouri is home to Whiteman Air Force Base, Fort Leonard Wood and Rosekrans Air National Guard Base.

House Higher Education Committee Chairman Mike Thompson sponsored the legislation.

http://www.dailystarjournal.com/news/local/article_3efb0cb7-3a0a-5373-93dc-82c1b8d63645.html

More information about educator preparation in Missouri can found at dese.mo.gov/eq/ep/.