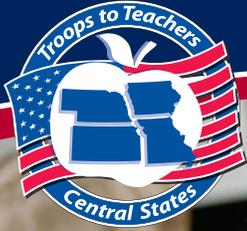


TROOPS TO TEACHERS



✦ JEFFERSON CITY OFFICE

877.530.2765

✦ ST. LOUIS OFFICE

314.729.2444

✦ KANSAS CITY OFFICE

816.241.1705



TROOPS TO TEACHERS

Overview

Troops to Teachers (TTT) is managed by the Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support (DANTES), Pensacola, Florida. The purpose of TTT is to assist eligible military personnel to transition to a new career as public school teachers in "high-need" schools. A network of state offices has been established to provide participants with counseling and assistance regarding certification requirements, routes to state certification, and employment leads. The TTT homepage provides information and resource links, including a job referral system to allow participants to search for job vacancies as well as links to state Departments of Education, state certification offices, model resumes, and other job listing sites in public education. Troops to Teachers is not a teacher certification program. Troops to Teachers Candidates must meet all state teacher certification requirements for the state where they desire to teach.

Troops to Teachers (TTT) was established in 1994 as a Department of Defense program. The National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2000 transferred the responsibility for program oversight and funding to the U.S. Department of Education but continued operation by the Department of Defense. Since 1994, over 17,000 Troops to Teachers participants have been hired nationally in public schools.

Goals and Objectives

Reflecting the focus of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, the primary objective of TTT is to help recruit quality teachers for schools that serve low-income families throughout America. TTT helps relieve teacher shortages, especially in math, science, special education and other high-needs subject

areas, and assists military personnel in making successful transitions to second careers in teaching.

Funding has been appropriated for FY 2014 to provide financial assistance to eligible participants, provide placement assistance, referral services, and maintain a network of state offices. Military personnel interested in a second career in public education may submit a registration form.

Pending availability of funds, financial assistance may be provided to eligible individuals as stipends up to \$5K to help pay for teacher certification costs or as bonuses of \$10K to teach in schools serving a high percentage of students from low-income families. Participants who accept the Stipend or Bonus must agree to teach for three years in schools that serve students from low-income families in accordance with the authorizing legislation.

Proud to Serve Again!

As the teacher shortage continues to grow, school districts are increasingly turning to TTT to find new teacher candidates. School districts that hire one military veteran through TTT almost always come back looking for more "just like him/her." Military veterans have established a reputation as excellent teachers and exemplary role models for today's students. The leadership skills, breadth of experience, dedication, commitment and maturity that our former marines, sailors, soldiers and airmen bring to the classroom are attributes sought by public school administrators and parents. If you are considering teaching as a second career, register online or submit a Registration Form to Troops to Teachers and join the thousands of other military veterans who are "Proud to Serve Again."

Additional information may be found at <http://troopstoteachers.net>



TROOPS TO TEACHERS



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

TROOPS TO TEACHERS GENERAL PROGRAM QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Q. When was Troops to Teachers (TTT) created and who administers it?

A. Troops to Teachers (TTT) was established in 1994 as a Department of Defense program. The National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2000 transferred responsibility for program oversight and funding to the U.S. Department of Education but continued operation by the Department of Defense. The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 provided for continuation of TTT. The National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2013 transferred responsibility for program oversight and funding back to the Department of Defense. TTT is managed by the Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support (DANTES), Pensacola, Florida.

Q. What is the purpose of the TTT Program?

A. TTT's mission is to assist transitioning service members in becoming teachers and to facilitate employment of such members.

Q. Why should I register in the TTT program?

A. By registering for the program, TTT can assist you in several ways: There are state and regional offices across the U.S. helping military personnel make successful transitions to second careers in teaching. The TTT staff can assist you in many ways from helping you understand the certification requirements in the state you want to teach, to informing you about the various certification programs available to you, and finally helping you find employment opportunities as a teacher. Financial assistance may also be available based on availability of funds and eligibility criteria.

Q. How can I locate the TTT office for my state?

A. TTT offices cover all fifty states and US territories. TTT state contact information is located at: <http://troopstoteachers.net/Portals/1/National%20Home%20Page/stateoffices.pdf>

Q. During working hours, how does the TTT phone system operate?

A. TTT's phones ring in a circular hunt group that reaches several available lines. When all lines are busy or no one is available, calls are routed to our voicemail system. TTT's normal business hours are 0700 to 1600 Central Time. Calls received during non-business hours automatically go to voicemail. Please leave a message, speak slowly, and clearly, include your name, phone number, and purpose of call.

Dsn 459-1241

Toll-Free 1-800-231-6242, Commercial 1-850-452-1320, Direct 1-850-452-1111 + Extensions

Q. If calling TTT after duty hours, which specific extension should I dial for certain kinds of services or questions?

A. Please leave a message, speak slowly, and clearly, include your name, phone number, and purpose of call.

Counseling Matters: Extensions 3224 or 3157,

Financial Issues: Ext. 3154 or 3162

General Program Information: Extensions 3224 or 3157

Homepage/Internet Issues: Extensions 3224 or 3157

Registration Password Reset: Extensions 3224, 3156 or 3157

Registration Process: Extensions 3148, 3158, 3184, or 3160

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

Ron Marsch, Supervisor

Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

Veterans Education and Training Section

P.O. Box 480, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0480

p: 877.530.2765

fax: 573.526.5710

e-mail: dese.troopstoteachers@dese.mo.gov

TEACHER CERTIFICATION CONTACT INFORMATION

MISSOURI

Debbie Butcher p: 573.751.7863

e-mail: debbie.butcher@dese.mo.gov

IOWA

Dr. Mary Lou Nosco p: 515.725.2146

e-mail: marylou.nosco@iowa.gov

NEBRASKA

Bethina Garrett p: 402.471.0739

e-mail: nde.tcrtweb@nebraska.gov

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

KANSAS

p: 785.296.2288

e-mail: scarter@ksde.org

website: www.kdse.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-%202006-14.pdf>

VETERAN'S EDUCATION & TRAINING SECTION

MISSOURI STATE APPROVING AGENCY



GI BILL COMPARISON TOOL ON THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS WEBSITE

Are you eligible for education benefits and not sure where you want to go to use them? Maybe you are unsure what career path would be good for you. Where do you start? Go to the Department of Veterans Affairs website for some helpful resources.

If you want a little direction on what path to take try out the CareerScope resource. CareerScope is an interest and aptitude assessment tool which may assist you in identifying careers you may be successful in and enjoy. CareerScope can be found at the following web address: <http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/careerscope.asp>. After exploring your various career options and settling on one that you feel is right, the next step is to evaluate the requirements. Do you need to go back to school to further your education? How much will that cost and what benefits are available?

To answer that second question you should explore another resource available on the Department of Veterans Affairs website called the GI Bill Comparison Tool and can be found at http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/comparison_tool.asp. It is easy to get started just answer a couple of questions about yourself, the type of benefits and the school you are interested in attending. This tool gives you a side-by-side comparison of benefits for several different schools. More detailed information can be found by clicking on the "How much am I going to get?" box on the screen. The tool will show information about your estimated benefits and other important information about the schools you are considering.

Some of the information displayed in the overview of the school includes the following items:

- A] How many veteran students attend?
- B] Is there a student veterans group on campus?
- C] Do they participate in the Yellow Ribbon program?
- D] Do they follow the Principles of Excellence?
- E] Do they support the 8 Keys to Success?

The School Summary will show information regarding:

- A] Number of VA complaints.
- B] Information regarding accreditation.
- C] Amount of VA tuition and fees paid as well as the number of students.
- D] Amount of Yellow Ribbon paid as well as the number of students.

Other items you may want to know about can also be found on the site and include the following:

- A] Graduation rates of the school.
- B] Loan default rates of the school.
- C] Median borrowing for students attending the school.

If this still does not give you everything you would like to know you may find it by clicking on the link to the College Navigator site which shows more information about the school. While you should not rely solely on this site to decide if and where to attend school, it is a great starting point for your decision.

STAFF

JEFFERSON CITY

Chad Schatz: Director

Ron Marsch: Supervisor

Debbie Butcher: Teacher Certification Supervisor

Loretta Fennewald: Administrative Assistant

ST. LOUIS

Michele Mueller: Supervisor

Robert Hummel: Approval Developer

Suzanne Adam: Secretary

John Hose: Education Specialist

KANSAS CITY

Turner Shipman: Supervisor

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Sharon Sawyer: Secretary

**Veterans Education & Training
Section Department of Elementary
and Secondary Education**
P.O. Box 480
Jefferson City, MO 65109
573.751.3487

**Veterans Education & Training
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Community College Pioneer Campus**
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Kansas City, MO 64127
816.241.1705

**Veterans Education & Training
Section C/O Truman Middle
School**
Room 22
12225 Eddie and Park Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63127
314.729.2444

HOW MANY HAVE USED THE GI BILL SINCE WWII?

Cumulative Totals: as of the End of FY2013

WWII VET	7,802,044
KOREAN VET	2,394,402
CH34	8,177,885
CH35	894,025
CH32	252,294
CH30	1,887,834
CH1606	801,761
CH1607	112,319
CH33	1,065,545
TOTALS	23,388,107

Source: Dept. of Veterans Affairs

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.

To check on eligibility for
GI Bill Benefits visit
www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/



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.



IOWA

RYAN WISE, FOUNDER OF "TEACH FOR AMERICA"

A love of history inspired Ryan Wise to become an educator. It was his first class that convinced him he'd made the right career move. Wise was young and from the Midwest teaching 11th graders in a high-poverty, low-performing high schools in Mississippi. Together, they built relationships based on high expectations and mutual respect.

"They defied every expectation that people would assume of them, given that they were in a low-performing school in a low-performing state," said Wise, of Des Moines. "This was an anchor experience that set it for me, that truly all kids can achieve at high levels and all kids deserve to get an excellent education." That philosophy shaped Wise's teaching and education leadership roles at the state, national and international levels. And, he said, it will guide his leadership as director of the Iowa Department of Education. Gov. Branstad and Lt. Gov. Kim Reynolds named Wise, 39, to the post on June 30.

Wise taught in rural and urban schools in Mississippi and Nebraska before moving to his home state of South Dakota. He launched Teach for America on the Rosebud and Pine Ridge Reservations. Wise worked to eliminate educational inequity around the world as a pioneering staff member of Teach for All, a global network of entrepreneurs. Wise came to Iowa in 2012 to facilitate a state task force whose work laid the foundation for the Iowa Teacher Leadership and Compensation System. It was adopted by the Iowa Legislature in 2013. That work formed the basis for his doctoral capstone, as well as his role with the Iowa Department of Education. As deputy director, Wise managed the development and delivery of the teacher leadership system, known by its acronym, "TLC." It is the most ambitious teacher leadership system in the nation.

Wise oversaw policy, communications and a statewide expansion of Iowa Learning Online, a state-run program that provides high-quality classes taught by Iowa-licensed teachers. He built relationships statewide as primary liaison to the State Board of Education, as a member of several state boards and commissions, and the Iowa High School Athletic Association.

Wise views good leadership under which others can do their best work. TLC furthered this belief because the system empowers local schools to set a vision and teacher leaders to motivate and mentor their counterparts. A quarter of teachers in TLC school buildings are elevated into coaching or mentor roles which should not diminish the work of teachers lifting up every child," he said. "I've never lost the view that teaching itself is an act of leadership."

Iowa is well-positioned to build on its educational excellence. The state has the highest graduation rate in the country, dedicated teachers and administrators, invested communities, and a slate of bold education initiatives, including TLC, early literacy, and ongoing reviews of Iowa's state standards. Iowa also has educational challenges. One in four third-grade students is not proficient in reading. Iowa faces gaps at each grade level, particularly students from low-income backgrounds and those whose first language is not English.

"There are many bright spots that Iowa should be very proud of, and we are blazing a new path that will be a model for other states," Wise said. "At the same time, we need to continue to work as a state on how to best address our challenges to ensure all kids have a bright future." Wise credits his work with children in the South, tribal leaders in South Dakota, an international network of entrepreneurs, and his Iowa TLC work preparing him to implement systemic work that respects a community's local context and diversity.

Being a father of two sons in Des Moines Public Schools is a daily reminder of the big job that Iowa teachers have, Wise said. "Kids come in from all different places, and for me, it's about helping to sustain an education system that meets the needs of all kids, whether they moved here from Somalia, like one of my son's classmates, or from Iowa and have college-educated parents," he said. "Whatever their needs are and whatever their backgrounds, it's about ensuring that teachers and schools are prepared to help them."

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



MISSOURI

NEW ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR THE OFFICE OF QUALITY SCHOOLS BEGINS WORK



Chris Neale, Ed. D., assumed his new role as assistant commissioner for the Office of Quality Schools on July 1. Dr. Neale most recently served as superintendent of Gasconade County R-I Schools in Hermann, Mo.

"We need to ensure that kids in Missouri get the best education we can provide," Dr. Neale said. "That's why we come to work each day."

As head of the Office of Quality Schools, Dr. Neale will guide management of the Missouri School Improvement Program (MSIP), the state's accountability system for public school districts. The office also administers a wide range of state- and federally funded programs, early learning, charter schools and the Missouri Virtual Instruction Program (MoVIP), along with a statewide system for supporting schools, communities and families.

Prior to his post at Gasconade R-I, Dr. Neale worked in the Houston R-I and Lebanon R-III school districts in Missouri. He holds a bachelor's degree in music education from Central Methodist College in Fayette, Mo., a master's degree in education from Southwest Missouri State University in Springfield, and education specialist and doctorate degrees from the University of Missouri-Columbia.

The Office of Quality Schools plays an integral part in Missouri's Top 10 by 20 initiative, an effort to place Missouri's student achievement among the top 10 states in the country by 2020.

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

NEBRASKA

NEBRASKA TEACHER OF THE YEAR RECOGNIZED



On July 1, 2015, President Obama named 108 mathematics and science teachers as recipients of the prestigious Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. Congratulations to Shelby Aaberg, 2015 Nebraska Teacher of the Year.

"Great mentors and teachers have inspired my journey as a learner and an educator. I am humbled to be in a distinguished group of mathematics and science teachers who ignite curiosity and inspire joy in the hearts of our nation's students each day. The Presidential Award celebrates outstanding teachers that impart the critical thinking and problem solving skills necessary to navigate our world. The award applauds the hard work my students have done as they strive to reach their potential."

Shelby Aaberg has taught mathematics at Scottsbluff High School (SHS) since 2006. From 2004 to 2006, he taught mathematics at Westside High School in Omaha, NE.

Shelby serves as the mathematics department chair at SHS where he teaches Advanced Placement (AP) Statistics, AP Calculus AB, Precalculus, and a problem solving class to freshmen through seniors. Shelby teaches graduate courses at the University of Nebraska – Lincoln (UNL) in statistics pedagogy for high school teachers and proportional reasoning for elementary teachers. He is the first vice-president of the Nebraska Association of Teachers of Mathematics.

Shelby coaches the math club at SHS and also coaches sprinters on the track team. He blogs about teaching mathematics at <http://mathleticism.net>.

Shelby is the 2015 Nebraska Teacher of the Year. He has also received the 2009 Siemens Award for Advanced Placement Teaching, the 2005 Raytheon Math Hero Award, and the 2004 Nebraska State Education Association Rookie of the Year Award.

Shelby has a B.S.Ed. in secondary education from UNL and an M.A.T. in mathematics education from the University of Nebraska – Omaha. Currently an Ed.D. student in curriculum, teaching, and professional development at UNL, Shelby is a National Board Certified Teacher in early adolescent mathematics. He holds certifications in English as a second language in grades K-12, and assessment in grades pre-K-12.

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

KANSAS

NATIONAL FINALISTS FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN MATHEMATICS & SCIENCE

Two Kansas Teachers named as National Finalists for the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching Olathe East High School math teacher Patrick Flynn and Indian Trail Middle School science teacher Jeremi Wonch have been named 2015 National Finalists for the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.

This award is given annually to outstanding K-12 science and mathematics teachers from across the country. The winners are selected by a panel of K-12 scientists, mathematicians, and educators following an initial selection process done at the state level. Each year, the award alternates between kindergarten through sixth grade educators and those teaching seventh through 12th grades.

Winners receive a \$10,000 award from the National Science Foundation to be used at their discretion. They also are invited to Washington, D. C. for an awards ceremony later this summer. There will be educational and celebratory events and visits with members of the Administration.

Wonch has been an educator for more than 26 years, spending the last five years teaching seventh-grade science at Indian Trail. She has also taught fourth and sixth grade in the district. She coaches the school's successful Science Olympiad program, which has qualified for the state competition the last five years. She also encourages hands-on learning and teaches a girls' Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) camp. This year, she was one of the district's Kansas Teacher of the Year semi-finalists.

Flynn has taught mathematics for 20 years, the last seven of which he has spent at Olathe East High School. He currently teaches Advanced Placement Calculus and Algebra 1, which he teaches to all grade levels. This past year, the students in Flynn's classes formed small learning communities where they helped and encouraged each other on their mathematical journey.

Flynn's development activities include attending the Biomathematics and Discrete Mathematics Institutes at Rutgers University. He is the author of online activities to coincide with episodes of the CBS television show NUMB3RS. He has served as a panelist for Student Explorations in Mathematics, a board member for the Kansas City Area Teachers of Mathematics, and a mentor for many teachers in the district.

Congratulations to these two outstanding Kansas educators on this well-deserved recognition!

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