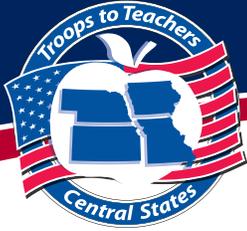


TROOPS TO TEACHERS



✦ JEFFERSON CITY OFFICE
877.530.2765

✦ ST. LOUIS OFFICE
314.467.5080

✦ KANSAS CITY OFFICE
816.241.1705

TRANSITIONING MILITARY PERSONNEL TO NEW CAREERS AS PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS

Counseling and Referral Services. All current and former members of the U.S. Armed Forces are eligible to participate in the Troops to Teachers (TTT) program. The last period of military service must be characterized as honorable. TTT provides counseling and, for those who are eligible for hire as teachers, referral services to assist with the transition to the classroom.

Financial Assistance. In addition to counseling and referral services, service members who qualify under one of the Active Duty or Reserve Component categories listed below may also be eligible for financial assistance, pending the availability of funds.

The TTT registration process must be completed before being hired as a teacher or for consideration for financial assistance. Financial assistance may be available as (A) a stipend of up to \$5K for teacher certification expenses for which individuals must teach for three years at an "eligible" public school (the stipend may not be available to those who are eligible for the Post-9/11 GI Bill) and/or (B) a bonus of up to \$5K to teach for three years in an "eligible" public school or (C) a bonus of up to \$10K to teach for three years in a "high-need" public school. The maximum amount available through any combination of financial assistance

is \$10K. Other conditions may apply. Contact your TTT state office for additional information: www.proudtoserveagain.com.

Military Service Requirements for Financial Assistance:

ACTIVE DUTY

- Retired from active duty.
- Active duty member with approved date of retirement with one year or less remaining before retirement.
- Separated for a service-determined physical disability on or after January 8, 2002.

MUST REGISTER WITHIN THREE YEARS AFTER SEPARATION.

Note: Physical disability must be noted on service separation documentation not a VA determination. Medical discharge is not the same as discharge due to physical disability.

RESERVE COMPONENT

- Retired from the Selected Reserve.
- Currently serving in the Selected Reserve with six or more years of creditable service towards retirement and commit to serving an additional three years, or until eligible for retirement.
- Separated from the Selected Reserve due to a service-determined physical disability on or after January 8, 2002. Must register

within three years after separation.

Note: Physical disability must be noted on service separation documentation not a VA determination. Medical discharge is not the same as discharge due to physical disability.

- Individuals transitioning from active duty on or after January 8, 2002, and have served four years on active duty immediately before separation, and execute a contract for three or more years with a Selected Reserve unit. Must register within three years after separation.

EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:

Service members interested in receiving financial assistance must also meet the following education requirements. For academic licensure or employment: must hold a Baccalaureate or advanced degree from an accredited institution. For career-technical licensure or employment: must either meet state career-technical teacher requirements, or have the equivalent of one year of college with six years of military experience in the vocational or technical field.

REGISTER ONLINE

www.proudtoserveagain.com



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



HOW TO APPLY TO TEACH JROTC

If your desire is to teach JROTC and you contact the State TTT Office, this is what is going to happen. We will give you the service specific website that will provide you all the information that is required for the JROTC Application/Package you will need to submit to be accepted. Be aware the State TTT office cannot refer you for open JROTC positions. You will want to monitor the vacancies listed on the service specific JROTC websites and follow the procedures required for employment. The Army, Navy, and Marines will contact the schools directly and follow the schools guidelines for employment. Air Force JROTC candidates will notify AFJROTC for teaching positions they are interested in applying for. Air Force JROTC candidates are not authorized to contact the schools without prior approval from AFJROTC who nominate their top six qualified applicants to the school's first. For more information contact your State TTT office.

NEW PROGRAM GIVES VETS JOBS, MAKES SCHOOLS SAFER

New Department of Defense initiative Troops to Teachers is quickly becoming a win-win program for veterans and schools, as qualified service members get trained as teachers and create a safer environment for public schools. NBC's Craig Melvin reports. Click link below to view video:

<http://www.today.com/video/today/50888151#50888151>



"I want to go to college someday".

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:

TROOPSTOTEACHERS.MO.GOV

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

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

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

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

MISSOURI/KANSAS/NEBRASKA/IOWA

Chad Schatz, Director

John Hose, Assistant Director

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: chad.schatz@dese.mo.gov

TEACHER CERTIFICATION CONTACT INFORMATION

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e-mail: marylou.nosco@iowa.gov

MISSOURI

Debbie Butcher

p: 573.751.7863

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

KANSAS

Sungti Hsu

p: 785.291.3573

e-mail: shsu@ksde.org

NEBRASKA

p: 402.471.0739

e-mail: nde.tcrtweb@nebraska.gov

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

PARTICIPANT LIFE CYCLE

Determine Eligibility

Register

Bachelors Degree

Teacher Certification

Job Search

Get Hired

Be a Mentor



VETERAN'S EDUCATION & TRAINING SECTION

MISSOURI STATE APPROVING AGENCY



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John Hose: Assistant Director

Ron Marsch: Supervisor

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Loretta Fennewald: Administrative Assistant

ST. LOUIS

John Parker: Supervisor

Mike Bitzenburg: Supervisor

Robert Hummel: Approval Developer

Suzanne Adam: Secretary

KANSAS CITY

Turner Shipman: Supervisor

Leo Blakley: Approval Developer

Sharon Sawyer: Secretary

Veterans Education & Training Section Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

P.O. Box 480

Jefferson City, MO 65109

Veterans Education & Training Section c/o Penn Valley Community College Pioneer Campus

Room 256

2700 East 18th St.

Kansas City, MO 64127

Veterans Education & Training Section c/o Mehlville School District

Room 110

3100 Lemay Ferry Road

St. Louis, MO 63125

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>

A MESSAGE FROM CURTIS L. COY, DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY, VA

Financial hardships are one of the leading causes that force students to drop out of school. I wanted to share with you information about VA's advance payment feature for GI Bill students as well as funding sources that are available through the Federal Student Aid program. Please help disseminate this information to Veteran students that you know.

You may have come across the term "advance payment" in dealing with GI Bill benefits. Who wouldn't want their pay in advance? Better sooner than later, sign me up! So what exactly is it? Can a Veterans Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP) student request advance payments?

Advance payment is a payment at the beginning of the term that combines the first partial month with the first full month of benefits. If a school agrees to handle advance payments, a student may receive this combined payment at the beginning of the term. VA sends the advance payment check to the school for the student to pick up. VRAP students are also eligible to request an advance payment.

To receive an advance payment, the following conditions must be met:

- The school must have agreed to receive and process advance payments, and
- The student must request an advance payment through his or her school certifying official, and
- VA must receive the enrollment certification at least 30 days before classes start.

Here's an example of how advance payment works: If a student's enrollment starts on August 15, the first payment would be for the period August 15 through September 30, for a total of 45 days. The full-time monthly rate payable under VRAP is \$1,564. In this case, due to the advance payment feature, the student's first payment would be \$2,346 rather

than \$1,564. Schools should submit the enrollment certification with the advance pay request to VA at least 30 days before the start of the term. As soon as VA processes the claim, the advance payment is mailed to the school for the student to pick up.

VRAP benefits are paid after the training has been completed and the student verifies his or her enrollment to VA. Since the student received an advance payment of VRAP benefits for the months of August and September, the next payment for October will be issued in early November. The student will need to verify attendance on or after October 31st to receive payment for the month of October.

Please make sure VRAP students are aware of this advance payment feature. As unemployed Veterans, it could be the initial boost they need to start down a path leading to a rewarding career.

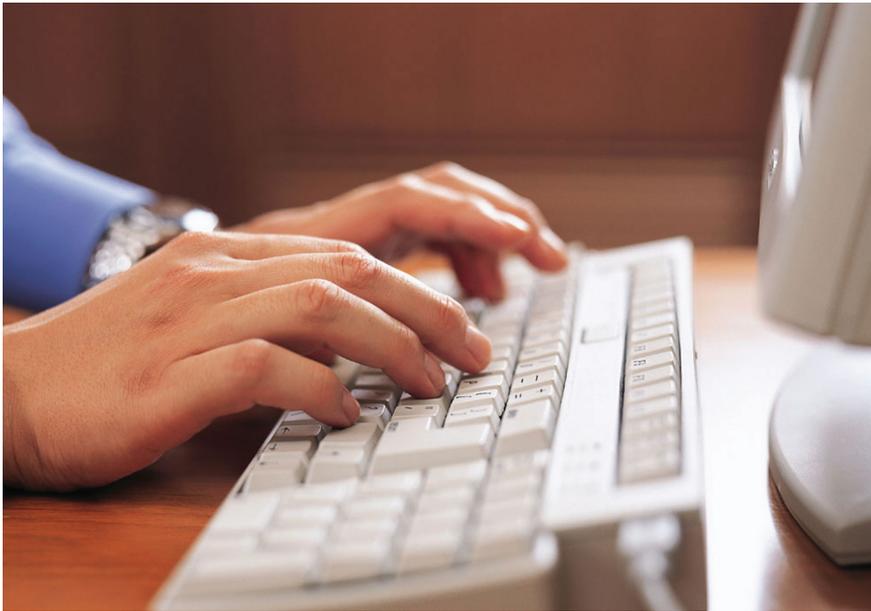
In addition to VA education benefits, did you know that money for college is available from your state and/or the U.S. Department of Education? Check out Studentaid.ed.gov for more information.

To qualify for federal, state and most college financial aid, you must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Visit StudentAid.ed.gov/FAFSA for more information.

Have questions about your college financial aid? Check out StudentAid.gov or call 1.800.4.FED.AID for assistance.

The following grant and scholarships are specifically geared towards Veterans and their families.

- The Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant: <http://studentaid.ed.gov/types/grants-scholarships/iraq-afghanistan-service>
- Scholarships for Military Families: <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sites/default/files/scholarships-for-military.pdf>



VA-ONCE

VA-ONCE is an enhanced means for submitting VA Forms 22-1999, 22-1999b, and 22-6553c. It is a completely Internet based application developed by a team of schools and VA representatives. All schools are recommended to utilize the VA-Once platform.

HOW TO GAIN ACCESS VA-ONCE

All schools will need to complete a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to gain access to the VA-ONCE application. **CLICK HERE** http://www.gibill.va.gov/School_Info/once/mou.htm for a copy of the MOU. You should complete the form on-line, PRINT it, obtain the appropriate signature(s), and mail it to your Education Liaison Representative (ELR) <http://gibill.va.gov/school-certifying-officials/elr.html>.

Note: The MOU must be signed by a school official who has the authority to enter into a contract between the institution and VA. If you have not recently submitted a "Designation of Certifying Official(s)" VA Form 22-8794, please do so immediately. Mail the completed form to your Education Liaison Representative (ELR).

VA FORMS

If you need a copy of a VA form, many of them are available directly for the VA website. The website is <http://www.va.gov/vaforms/>.

You must have the latest version of Adobe Reader on your computer to fully utilize all the forms on this site. You can download software at: Free Adobe Reader Download. (Note: By clicking on Free Adobe Reader Download link, you will leave the Department of Veterans Affairs Website. VA does not endorse and is not responsible for the content of the linked website)

Forms on this site are available in several formats. Fillable pdf can be filled on-line, printed, saved and edited. XFT forms can be filled on-line, printed, and saved to your pc but cannot be edited later (TURN OFF YOUR POP-UP BLOCKER TO USE XFT). Some PDF are printable blank forms.

THE MISSOURI STATE APPROVING AGENCY DIRECTORY

Features all schools and colleges approved for the GI Bill. Request a copy by calling **877.530.2765**

The Department of Elementary & Secondary Education

We 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 65102-0480
p: 573.526.4757
or Relay Missouri p: 800.735.2966.**

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.

THE MISSOURI STATE APPROVING AGENCY DIRECTORY

Features all schools and colleges approved for the GI Bill. Request a copy by calling **877.530.2765**



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



IOWA

IOWA GRAPPLES WITH TEACHER PREPARATION STANDARDS

Iowa is in a debate over the quality of teacher preparation programs. Student learning standards have become nationalized as more states adopt the Common Core and advocates push nationalized student testing with programs such as SmarterBalanced, some argue that teaching prep programs should have a nationalized criteria. Skeptics worry about taking decisions out of the hands of state boards and stakeholders and giving the authority to someone else.

The debate escalated last month when officials at the Iowa Dept. of Education asked state Board of Education members if they wanted to endorse the new national teacher prep certification board called the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation. It's part of the ongoing effort to keep the state's teacher preparation guidelines up to date. Board members were given three options: make no changes, adopt council standards, keep the Iowa program with modifications along the lines of council standards, and the board balked.

"The State Board requested more information about these options, as well as a recommendation from the Iowa Dept. of Education," board chairwoman Rosie Hussey wrote. She wrote that although the board had been learning about teacher preparation in Iowa, its members didn't feel comfortable being shown by the administration. "It's solely up to the board on what they want to do," said Larry Bice, State's practitioner of preparation programs. "They said they wanted more information, and we're gathering that for them." State Board of Education members will continue the discussion next month. Hussey will not comment on the options until there is further information.

Not done: The council standards are not done yet. A comment period of its proposed standards ended two weeks ago. A presentation of

completed standards isn't expected until this summer.

The council is two national prep program standards boards: the Teacher Education Accreditation Council and the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education, which never quite caught on.

"NCATE, has about 600 programs out of 1,450 nationwide. About a third of the top programs didn't seek NCATE certification," said Kate Walsh, president of the NCTQ, a group that advocates for reform of teacher policies at the federal, state and local levels. It's funding comes from such groups as the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Carnegie Corp. of New York and the Joyce Foundation.

Walsh's group is in the midst of a two-year study of teacher preparation programs. In June, expects to release a report, to be published in U.S. News and World Report, ranking the quality of each one.

"Medical and law schools have national accreditation, if you want to be an engineer, you go to an accredited school," Walsh said. "Why not teacher preparation programs?" Mary Jane Cobb, executive director of the ISEA, said national accreditation is good, but thinks the union and other stakeholders should be part of the conversation in Iowa.

"Nationally, we have members working on CAEP, but here, we want to be involved," Cobb said. "It's such an important step in the process that we'd like help lead the conversation, especially since we don't even know what the final standards are going to look like."

http://qctimes.com/news/state-and-regional/iowa/iowa-grapples-with-teacher-preparation-standards/article_e628d994-8442-538c-b6c4-cdc36f90476e.html

MISSOURI

KC & ST. LOUIS MAYORS SHOW THEIR SUPPORT FOR COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS

New standards will aid efforts to boost student achievement across Missouri. The mayors have expressed their support for the state's adoption of the Common Core State Standards for English language arts and math. Kansas City Mayor Sly James and St. Louis Mayor Francis Slay endorsed the more rigorous standards designed to ensure that all students graduate from high school, college and are career ready.

"We are very pleased that Mayor Slay and Mayor James support our efforts to improve educational outcomes in our two largest urban areas and statewide," said Commissioner of Education Chris L. Nicastro. "The mayors' support underscores our work to ensure students gain the critical thinking and problem solving skills they will need throughout their lives."

Preparing students for college and careers is the primary goal of the Top 10 by 20 initiative, which calls for Missouri to rank among the top 10 performing states in the nation by 2020. Adopted by the State Board of Education in 2010, the Common Core State Standards are part of Missouri's Learning Standards. The Common Core standards were developed through a state-led effort lead by governors and state education leaders and from across the country, including Missouri.

The standards have been adopted by 46 states and the District of Columbia. In Missouri, hundreds of schools districts, colleges, universities, businesses, civic and education organizations support the standards. These standards establish what students learn at each grade level and describe skills they need to gain for postsecondary education and a competitive workforce. Local school districts and educators will decide how the standards will be taught, and teachers will create lesson plans and tailor instruction to meet the students needs.

THE STANDARDS:

- Promote college and career readiness and are designed to ensure all students graduate from high school with the knowledge and skills they need.
- Provide clear and consistent expectations for students. Built on the strength of existing state standards, the new standards serve as a road map for quality education and provide students, parents and teachers with a thorough understanding of what students are expected to learn.
- Allow for greater collaboration among educators, offering teachers and schools more opportunities to share ideas and resources.

For more information about the Missouri Learning Standards and the Common Core State Standards visit: dese.mo.gov/divimprove/curriculum/Common_Core.html.



KANSAS

QUALIFYING FOR A TEACHING LICENSE

Here's a question we hear, "I already hold a degree in the subject or content area I want to teach (such as mathematics). What do I have to do to qualify for a teaching license?"

You will still have to complete a teacher preparation program. You could complete a traditional teacher preparation program, however, because you already have content coursework completed, you may be eligible for an alternative licensure program.

For information on the restricted license, please select the following link: <http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=320>
Restricted Teaching License Alternative Pathway*

The Restricted Teaching License Alternative Pathway is intended to respond to school districts' needs in hiring qualified, licensed teachers. It is designed to recruit mid-career professionals who have a bachelor's, master's degree, or equivalent coursework in a content area they want to teach and are seeking a career change. Heritage language speakers with a bachelor's degree or higher can also utilize the restricted licensure to teach their native languages. This pathway provides an opportunity for these individuals to have immediate access to start teaching under restricted license while completing professional education pedagogy course work to become fully licensed.

*The alternative licensure program is only available for secondary content areas and limited numbers of all level subjects.



NEBRASKA

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA KEARNEY TRANSITIONAL CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

The Transitional Certification Program at UNK is an alternative teacher certification pathway for individuals with a baccalaureate degree or higher who wish to earn an Initial Teaching Certificate issued by the Nebraska Department of Education.

There are two tracks to the Transitional Certification Program:

Track One: Online Post-Baccalaureate study

Please Note: All Teaching Sequence courses are offered online. NOT ALL Endorsement content area coursework is available online at UNK.

Prospective students will have an Academic Department Review of their transcripts, in the endorsement area(s) they choose, completed by UNK Department Chairs. Credit for content coursework may be given from other educational institutions. Teacher education professional sequence is completed through online courses specifically developed for this program and offered only through the University of Nebraska at Kearney.

Track Two: Online Post-Baccalaureate study while employed as a teacher.

Please Note: All Teaching Sequence courses are offered online. NOT ALL Endorsement area content coursework is available online at UNK.

Prospective candidates have their transcripts evaluated, for the endorsement area(s) they choose, by the Director of the Transitional Certification Program using Rule 24 of the Nebraska Department of Education.

Qualified candidates may then be eligible for employment by a school district under a Transitional Certificate in order to fill a vacancy on its teaching staff.

Credit for content coursework may be given from other educational institutions.

Teacher education professional sequence is completed through online courses specifically developed for this program and offered only through the University of Nebraska at Kearney while participants are employed as classroom teachers.

Each of these tracks requires a student teaching component in addition to successful completion of all teacher education coursework.

Upon successful completion of the entire professional sequence, recommendation will be made to the Nebraska Department of Education for the issuance of an initial Nebraska Teaching Certificate.

Wendy L. McCarty
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University of Nebraska
at Kearney*

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Wendy McCarty

