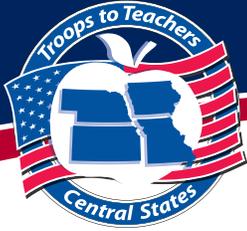


TROOPS TO TEACHERS



✦ JEFFERSON CITY OFFICE
877.530.2765

✦ ST. LOUIS OFFICE
314.729.2444

✦ KANSAS CITY OFFICE
816.241.1705

SPOTLIGHTING THE EMPLOYMENT PREPARATION PORTFOLIO PURPOSE OF THE GUIDE

The Central States Troops to Teacher site offers many helpful publications.

The purpose of this guide is to assist you in successfully securing a teaching position with a district in your area. This guide will provide you with an overview of the documents required to apply for teaching positions and tips when writing your cover letter, resume, and educational philosophy. This guide also offers sample documents to use as guides when finalizing your application materials. Finally, the interview process is outlined with sample interview questions and possible answers. Each school district is unique and principals aim to hire teachers that will be a good fit for their individual school. It is highly recommended that you research the schools in your area to find the district and school that best aligns with your philosophies. It may also be beneficial to speak with current teachers and principals within the district prior to the interview process to gain insights into the process for that specific district. You may also gain valuable information from the district website.

This guide should be used as just that. These are simply recommendations gathered from Troops to Teachers counselors based on their years of experience assisting military members as they transition to careers as public school teachers. There are many different ways to approach a cover letter, resume, and interview. The content of this guide is simply a compilation of what has been effective for prior Troops to Teachers participants. The suggestions in this guide should be adapted to meet the needs of the district, school, and applicant.

<http://dese.mo.gov/divcareered/documents/TTT-EmploymentPreparationPortfolio.pdf>

Veteran's Education & Training Troops To Teachers



Newsletter Highlights Troops To Teachers program
 The Troops To Teachers program along with the Missouri Veterans Education and Training Section produces an electronic newsletter highlighting items of interest to veterans.
 Current and Past Issues

Troops To Teachers General Information

- ▶ Troops To Teachers: Information/Registration Packet (pdf)

Troops to Teachers-Getting Started Booklet

- ▶ Getting Starting Booklet

Helpful Links to Search for Teaching Jobs

- ▶ Missouri Teaching Jobs (SuccessLink)
- ▶ Missouri Teaching Jobs (MoREAP)
- ▶ Iowa Teaching Jobs
- ▶ Kansas Teaching Jobs
- ▶ Nebraska Education Jobs
- ▶ Nationwide Teaching Jobs (Teacher Jobs)

How Do I Find?

Useful Links

- ▶ Printable Employment Preparation Portfolio
- ▶ Troops to Teachers - Getting Started Booklet
- ▶ TTT - Proud to Serve Again Booklet
- ▶ Teaching as a Second Career
- ▶ Troops To Teachers - Custom Job Search
- ▶ Student Loan Forgiveness
- ▶ TTT Mentor Connection - MO/IA/KS/NE
- ▶ Alternative Routes to Certification
 - Iowa
 - Kansas
 - Missouri
 - Nebraska

You can find this page by visiting: troopstoteachers.mo.gov. Look to the right hand side of the home page to the "How Do I Find?" list to find what you are looking for.



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

TROOPS TO TEACHERS MENTORS

We are pleased to have a list of mentors on our web site. These folks 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.

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?

Contact DESE. TroopsToTeachers@DESE.mo.gov or click here to join us:

<http://dese.mo.gov/divcareered/documents/VE-TTT-MentorForm.pdf>



VETERAN'S EDUCATION & TRAINING TROOPS TO TEACHERS STUDENT LOAN FORGIVENESS INFORMATION

Do you have student loan debt?

Then do yourself a favor and check out the links on our site.



<http://dese.mo.gov/divcareered/LoanForgiveness.htm>

Please check out the below links for information pertaining to student loan forgiveness,

- ▼ USDOE, Teacher Cancellation Low Income Directory for Federal Perkins/ National Direct Student Loan, Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL), and William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan (DL) programs; Loan cancellation (forgiveness) for teaching service in Low-Income Schools
- ▼ Stafford Loan Forgiveness Program for Teachers
- ▼ Teacher Loan Forgiveness Application
- ▼ Cancellation/Deferment Options for Teachers

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

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TEACHER CERTIFICATION CONTACT INFORMATION

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e-mail: shsu@ksde.org

NEBRASKA

p: 402.471.0739

e-mail: nde.tcertweb@nebraska.gov

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

Don't forget, we have moved! Our new address is:
Veterans Education and Training Truman Middle School
12225 Eddie and Park Road, Room 22, St. Louis, MO 63127-1413
office: 314.729.2444 fax: 314.729.2495

VETERAN'S EDUCATION & TRAINING SECTION

MISSOURI STATE APPROVING AGENCY



THE GI BILL, IT'S NOT JUST FOR COLLEGE. ON-THE-JOB TRAINING AND APPRENTICESHIP



VETERANS:

To determine eligibility for VA benefits, call toll free (888) 442-4551

EMPLOYERS:

To seek approval of a training program, call (573) 751-3487

CONTACTS FOR ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE

If you are a veteran, National Guard member, selected reservist or an eligible dependent of a veteran, you may be eligible to receive a monthly educational benefit from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

WHAT IS ON-THE-JOB TRAINING?

On-the-Job Training (OJT) is training you receive while actually performing a job and earning wages. Approvable OJT programs must be at least six months and up to two years in length. Some examples of OJT programs are: welder, painter, cook, production equipment mechanic, auto mechanic, corrections officer, and parts buyer.

WHAT IS APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING?

Apprenticeship training is on-the-job training, coupled with 144 hours (minimum) per year of related technical instruction. You receive your GI Bill benefit while working full time and earning wages. Apprenticeships are normally from two to five years in length. Registration with the Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training is not mandatory for veteran benefits; however,

it is recommended in order for the veteran to receive journeyman's papers upon successful completion. Some examples of apprenticeship training programs are: electrician, ironworker, roofer, plumber, and sheet metal worker. (These are not inclusive listings.)

TIME LIMITS

Approval of a program may be backdated up to one year. As a general rule, veterans have 10 years after their separation from service to use their GI Bill benefit. Chapter 34 GI Bill (Vietnam era) ended on December 31, 1989; however, some Chapter 34 veterans are eligible for benefits under Chapter 30. Contact the Veterans Affairs office to determine eligibility.

HOW TO BEGIN

1] Contact the Veterans Affairs office at (888) 442-4551 to determine your eligibility and to obtain the necessary application forms.

2] If you do not have a job or if you are not working in the occupation you want, contact your local Missouri Career Center. The Veteran Representative should be able to find an employer who may offer the kind of training you need to reach the occupational objective you select.

3] Next, have your employer contact the State Approving Agency so that the necessary steps can be taken to approve the training program. Keep in mind that not all occupations can be approved. Contact the State Approving Agency for more information.

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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 22

12225 Eddie and Park Rd.

St. Louis, MO 63127

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>

HOW MUCH IS THE MONTHLY BENEFIT CHECK?

CHAPTER 33 POST-9/11:

ACTIVE DUTY AFTER SEPTEMBER 11, 2001:

*100% of your applicable MHA during the first 6 months of training
80% of your applicable MHA during the second 6 months of training
60% of your applicable MHA during the third 6 months of training
40% of your applicable MHA during the fourth 6 months of training
20% of your applicable MHA during the remainder of training

* Rate is E-5 w/dependents. Go to www.gibill.va.gov for amounts.
If less than 36 mo. Service, amounts are reduced per your award letter.
You can also receive up to \$83 per month for books and supplies, regardless of award percentage.

CHAPTER 30:

Initial active duty after July 1, 1985; and contributed to the Montgomery GI Bill; and active duty was three years or more: (*approximate*)

First 6 months \$1,236

Second 6 months \$906 Remainder \$576 (If active duty was less than three years; see www.gibill.va.gov for amounts.)

NOTE: "Kickers" program applies to OJT.

CHAPTER 32:

Initial active duty between January 1, 1977 and June 30, 1985 and contributed toward the Veterans Educational Assistance Program (VEAP). Contact the VA at 1-888-442-4551 for your specific allowance.

CHAPTER 1606:

Members of the National Guard or Reserve with a six year period of obligation after October 1, 1990 and still attending drill: (*approximate*)

First 6 months \$271 Second 6 months \$199 Remainder \$126

CHAPTER 1607:

Members of the National Guard or Reserve who were deployed for 90 days or more. Amounts vary by length of deployment. Go to www.gibill.va.gov for amounts.

CHAPTER 34:

Entered active duty between Feb. 1, 1955 and Dec 31, 1976. You may be eligible to receive benefits under Chapter 30. Contact The DVA at 1-888-442-4551 for benefit amounts.

CHAPTER 35:

Applies to a child or spouse of a service-connected deceased or 100 percent permanently disabled veteran. (*approximate*)

First 6 months: \$732

Second 6 months \$549

Third 6 months:\$362 Remainder of Training \$183

NOTE: You may use your GI Bill OJT benefit during your first two years of teaching in Missouri.

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.

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.



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



The TTT office had a chance to work with a member wanting to go to Iowa upon retirement. Here is a piece of our conversations.

Iowa does not have reciprocity with any state. That said, they do recognize WGU.edu's math educator's programs. Iowa is prohibited from pre-approving any out of state program.

Iowa has licensed at least two dozen individuals who completed the WGU secondary math program. They have found WGU to be a very honorable institution. If online works for your current situation, I would certainly check them out.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION INTERIM DIRECTOR STATEMENT

Iowa Department of Education Interim Director D.T. Magee released the following statement in response to ACT's annual nationwide release of assessment results today:

"We are proud of Iowa's performance on this important assessment, but we still have a lot of work to do to prepare our students for success after high school," Magee said. "We must make sure that all students are ready for college and career training. The ACT is a valuable tool in helping us gauge how those efforts are moving forward."

Iowa tied with Wisconsin for the second-highest average ACT composite score among states that tested more than half of students in the Class of 2013. Iowa and Wisconsin scored 22.1 out of a possible 36. Iowa's average composite score is unchanged from last year.

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

MISSOURI

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WILL NOT RECOMMEND CHANGE IN KANSAS CITY'S ACCREDITATION

Citing concern for many students still struggling in Kansas City, today the Commissioner of Education, Chris L. Nicastro, notified the Superintendent of Kansas City Schools, Dr. Steve Green, that the Department would not recommend changing the district's accreditation.

At the September State Board of Education meeting, Dr. Green requested that the Department recommend changing the district's accreditation and that the State Board classify the district as provisionally accredited. This issue will be on the State Board of Education's October agenda. Any response from the Board would come after the October meeting.

The district's first performance report under the Missouri School Improvement Program 5 (MSIP 5) showed progress in science and math, but less than 30 percent of students are proficient in those subjects. In English language arts and math, almost 70 percent of Kansas City students are not reading or performing math at grade level. The data suggest that the district has hard work ahead to improve student performance.

"We were pleased to see the progress students made in Kansas City schools this year in science and math," said Nicastro. "But we must do what we believe is in the best interests of the children."

In a letter, the Commissioner explained that one year of district performance was not sufficient to determine a sustainable positive trend in the district. MSIP 5 recognizes progress in school districts, but the program needs at least two to three years of information before determining school district performance trends. It is the first year of the MSIP 5 accountability system.

The State Board of Education classified the Kansas City Public School District as unaccredited in 2012. This is the first year since then that the district's annual report rated its performance in the provisionally accredited range.

The Department will continue to work closely with the Kansas City School District to help sustain its improvement efforts.



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

KANSAS



THE KANSAS STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (KSDE) IS MOVING!

After nearly 50 years at our current location, KSDE will move to the Landon State Office building at 900 SW Jackson Street beginning in October.

OCTOBER STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

What: October State Board of Education Meeting

When: October 15 at 10:00 am and October 16 at 9:00 am

Where: Room 112 North, State Capitol, Topeka

Relative to the issuance and/or renewal of teaching licenses of individuals convicted of crimes provided in the statute, the board approved implementing new measures that would strengthen the law or require changes in rules and regulations. The State Board of Education shall not knowingly issue a license to or renew the license of any person who is convicted of numerous crimes outlined in the statute. The law further provides in Section (e) that the district or county attorney shall file a report with the State Board of Education indicating the name, address, and social security number of any person who has been determined to have committed any offense or act outlined in the statute or entered into a criminal diversion agreement after having been charged with any of the crimes outlined in the law. Such reports shall be filed within 30 days of the date of the determination that the person has committed any such act or entering into a diversion agreement.

As of 2002, all teacher license applicants are required to submit fingerprints but those already licensed were grandfathered from this requirement. Currently, it is estimated that 35,000 licensed teachers do not have fingerprints on file. The board voted 9-1 to pursue implementing the following options: **1]** Phase in a requirement that all renewals for licenses would require a fingerprint check. Within five years, all teachers licensed in Kansas would have fingerprints on file. **2]** Develop an electronic form that would be sent to each county and district attorney specifically requesting a monthly report. **3]** Request the Kansas Supreme Court education liaison to include this provision in the law in future education meetings with county and district attorneys. **4]** Request the Attorney General send a letter to all county and district attorneys calling their attention to the law and the importance of ensuring the reports are filed in a timely manner; and requesting assistance from the Kansas County and District Attorneys Association in implementing the provisions of KSA 72-1397.

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

NEBRASKA

NEBRASKA SCHOOL DISTRICTS DEMONSTRATE IMPROVEMENT, GROWTH IN STATE ACCOUNTABILITY RANKINGS

The Nebraska State of the Schools Report released today also showed that, overall, all student groups have made gradual, consistent progress in reading and mathematics under the state testing system. A report on Nebraska public schools and student performance unveiled today showed most school districts demonstrated improvement and growth under a state accountability system. The State of the Schools Report provides detailed information about Nebraska public schools, including new federal accountability data and performance disaggregated by student groups. Overall, the Nebraska Performance Accountability System (NPAS) showed that the overwhelming majority of the school districts demonstrated both improvement and growth in reading. While the number of districts showing improvement and growth in mathematics dropped slightly from the previous year, most districts showed improvement and growth.



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