



NEWS RELEASE

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Iowa College Aid Announces Application Process for Teach Iowa Scholar Program *Incentive program awards funds to top-tier teachers working in shortage field subjects*

Des Moines, IA, September 9, 2015 – Iowa College Aid today announced the start of the application process for the 2015-16 Teach Iowa Scholar program. The Teach Iowa Scholar program helps meet the needs of Iowa schools by awarding up to \$20,000 to teachers who graduated in the top 25 percent of their teacher preparation programs and who teach in state-designated shortage subjects.

To be eligible for a Teach Iowa Scholar award, a teacher must meet the following criteria:

- Completed a teacher preparation program on or after January 1, 2013;
- Graduated in the top 25 percent of his or her teacher preparation program (teachers who graduated from an out-of-state college are eligible);
- Be under contract during the 2015-16 school year at an Iowa school, teaching in a shortage field (a list of such fields can be found [here](#)); and
- Submit a [Teach Iowa Scholar application](#) by November 20, 2015.

Karen Misjak, executive director of the Iowa College Student Aid Commission, said that the Teach Iowa Scholar program is a win-win for both new teachers and the state.

“The Teach Iowa Scholar program incentivizes young people to consider teaching as a profession and to start their careers in Iowa,” said Misjak. “The program is an investment in Iowa’s future and has the added benefit of reducing the burden of student loan debt for our new teachers.”

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Eligible teachers may receive awards up to \$4,000 per year up to five years, not to exceed \$20,000 total. Teachers selected for the program will receive their payments in June, 2016, after employment for the 2015-16 school year has been confirmed. Payment can be made in the form of:

- A lump-sum payment toward the teacher's outstanding federal student loan balance; or
- A lump sum payment to the individual teacher. Payments issued to individual teachers are considered taxable income and the State of Iowa will issue a 1099 MISC for tax-filing purposes.

Interested teachers can find a detailed list of the teacher shortage fields, including required endorsements, as well as begin the Teach Iowa Scholar application process at Iowa College Aid's website (<https://www.iowacollegeaid.gov/teachiowascholar>)

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About the Iowa College Student Aid Commission

Iowa College Aid provides college access, financial literacy, and outreach services to Iowa's students and families as they prepare, plan and pay for college. Iowa College Aid also administers state scholarship, grant, work study, and loan forgiveness programs totaling over \$70.0 million annually, conducts research and distributes higher education data, and offers Iowans assistance in obtaining student financial aid and college-related information. Through its role, Iowa College Aid also serves as the state-designated administrator of the U.S. Department of Education's College Access Challenge Grant, which is designed to increase the college-going culture in Iowa. Additionally, Iowa College Aid is the administrator of the Federal GEAR-UP Grant, a multi-year state-wide grant which is being utilized to provide early awareness programming and outreach initiatives to thousands of Iowa's students and families. More information is available at www.IowaCollegeAid.gov.