

Financial Aid Highlights

Financial Aid Highlights is a periodic electronic news update provided by the Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships for the benefit of prospective and continuing CSUB students and parents, high school and community college counselors, faculty, and staff. The electronic publication will contain informational items pertaining to financial aid and scholarships of relevance to the CSUB community. Past issues are archived on the Financial Aid & Scholarships homepage at <http://www.csub.edu/finaid>. Additional information regarding any given topic may be obtained by calling the office at (661) 664-3016.

U.S. Department of Education's Teacher Loan Forgiveness Program - FAH (Vol. 6, No. 19)

Students are advised that on October 30, 2004, President Bush signed the "Taxpayer-Teacher Protection Act of 2004" that established provisions under which new Stafford Loan borrowers may qualify for teacher loan forgiveness of up to \$17,500. The increased amount of teacher loan forgiveness is only available to an individual who had no outstanding balance of principal or interest owing on any loan made, insured or guaranteed under Title IV of the HEA prior to October 1, 1998 and has borrowed eligible loans prior to October 1, 2005.

This federally funded "Teacher Loan Forgiveness" program differs from the California state-funded Assumption Program of Loans for Education (APLE) for future teachers K-12, which may assume up to \$11,000 in outstanding educational loan balances. It also differs from the Graduate Assumption Program of Loans for Education (Graduate APLE) program, which may assume up to \$6,000 in outstanding educational loan balances.

The borrower must be employed full-time for five consecutive years as a highly qualified secondary school teacher of science or math or a highly qualified elementary or secondary school special education teacher. The definition of "highly qualified teacher" is defined on the Department of Education's (DOE) website at the following link: <http://www.ifap.ed.gov/dpcletters/GEN0414.html>.

A special education teacher in an elementary school or secondary school for purposes of loan forgiveness is a special education teacher whose primary responsibility is to provide special education to children with disabilities, as those terms are defined in section 602 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. The chief administrative officer of the public or non-profit private elementary school or secondary school in which the borrower is employed must certify that the borrower is teaching children with disabilities that correspond with the borrower's special education training, and has demonstrated knowledge and teaching skills in the content areas of the elementary school or secondary school curriculum that the borrower is teaching.

As under prior law, the borrower must teach in an elementary or secondary school that:

- is in a school district that qualifies for funds under Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended;
- has been selected by the U.S. Department of Education based on a determination that more than 30 percent of the school's total enrollment is made up of children who qualify for services provided under Title I; and
- is listed in the annual *Directory of Designated Low-Income Schools* for teacher cancellation benefits. (See website address at <http://studentaid.ed.gov/PORTALSWebApp/students/english/cancelperk.jsp?tab=repaying>).

An otherwise eligible borrower who has already received loan forgiveness under the prior requirements is eligible to receive further loan forgiveness, up to the difference between \$17,500 and the amount previously forgiven, once the borrower has completed the required five years of teaching service as a

highly qualified special education teacher or as a highly qualified secondary school math or science teacher.

For a new Stafford loan borrower to qualify for loan forgiveness of up to the previously authorized level of \$5,000 after the date of enactment of this legislation, the borrower must now be a highly qualified teacher and employed full-time for five years in an elementary or secondary school that meets the above standards for inclusion in the annual Directory of *Designated Low-Income Schools*. Please note that a borrower who commenced teaching service under the requirements that existed under prior law, and who continues to meet those requirements, will remain eligible for up to \$5,000 in loan forgiveness without meeting the highly qualified teacher standard.

The "Teacher Loan Forgiveness" application form may be downloaded from the following link:
<http://www.ifap.ed.gov/dpccletters/attachments/gen0115b.pdf>.

For detailed information on the program and to find out if you qualify for this loan forgiveness program, please call the Department's Federal Student Aid Customer Service hotline at 1-800-433-7327.

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