

# **Senate Bill 511 (2015) – Teach Nevada Scholarships Facts for Students**

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## **Who is eligible to apply for scholarship funds?**

- Eligible students may include, without limitation:
  - a) Recent high school graduates who have not yet enrolled in a teacher preparation program;
  - b) Students who are currently enrolled in a non-education related college/university degree program and change their academic program to teacher preparation;
  - c) Students who have completed some credits at a university or college who re-enroll in a teacher preparation program;
  - d) Students who possess a bachelor's degree in a non-education related field and chose to pursue a new alternative route to licensure for teaching;
  - e) Veterans and the spouses of veterans; and
  - f) Students who have had some experience working in a classroom, including, without limitation, as a paraprofessional or substitute teacher.
  
- Funding was appropriated by the legislature to increase the number of students pursuing a career in teaching. Therefore, only students who are NOT already enrolled in a traditional or alternative route preparation program in Nevada at the time of scholarship application are eligible.
  
- Scholarship funds may be used for undergraduate or graduate-level work, but ONLY for initial teacher preparation. Funds cannot be used by those who already hold teaching licenses to earn additional areas of endorsement (ELL, administration/leadership, GATE, literacy, etc.).
  
- The State Board of Education (SBE) may prioritize applications that will result in a greater number of teachers who are veterans, from disadvantaged backgrounds, certified in high-need areas (such as STEM/special education/ELL), agree to teach in high-need schools, and/or other additional criteria.

## **How does a student apply for scholarship funds?**

- The Nevada Department of Education (NDE) will not distribute any funds directly to students. Students must apply for scholarships through approved traditional or alternative route preparation program providers. Approved providers are found on the NDE website at [http://www.doe.nv.gov/Educator\\_Development\\_and\\_Support/Educator\\_Preparation/](http://www.doe.nv.gov/Educator_Development_and_Support/Educator_Preparation/) (Note that some providers may not apply for scholarship funds, so students should inquire with the education program officer at the institution.)
  
- During fall 2015, preparation programs will submit applications for funds to the NDE for approval by the SBE. Awards will be granted to the colleges, universities, or other approved program providers no later than December 1, 2015 for distribution to students.

## **How much is the scholarship award and when do students receive the money?**

- The amount of individual scholarships will vary, depending on tuition costs at each institution. The maximum scholarship award is \$3,000/semester per student, not to exceed an aggregate of \$24,000 per student. Students who attend a program that charges less than \$3,000 per semester will receive the amount sufficient to cover tuition costs of that program.
  
- Students will receive 75% of the value of the scholarship each semester they are current students. (Students are expected to pay for any remaining tuition, fees, or other ancillary costs associated with completing their program.)
  
- Within 120 days of successfully completing five consecutive years of teaching in a Nevada K-12 public school, students may receive the remaining 25% of the scholarship. It is the responsibility of each student to verify employment status to the education program and to request distribution of these funds.