

### Iowa Student Loan Teacher Education Loan Forgiveness Program

Students who are currently working toward education degrees or endorsement programs that lead to licensure in an approved subject shortage area at accredited Iowa colleges or universities, may be eligible to receive loan forgiveness of up to \$6,000. To be eligible, your qualifying student loans must be held by Iowa Student Loan at the time loan forgiveness is requested.

Go to [www.studentloan.org/teacher](http://www.studentloan.org/teacher) for more details.



**IowaCollegeAid.gov**  
Your Financial Aid Connection

#### Our Mission

We advocate for, and provide a continuum of services to support, Iowa students and families as they explore and finance educational opportunities beyond high school.

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# TEACHER LOAN FORGIVENESS



**IowaCollegeAid.gov**  
Your Financial Aid Connection



## FEDERAL + STATE = 2 TEACHER LOAN FORGIVENESS PROGRAMS

### Who says teaching doesn't pay?

Be-coming a teacher and helping to develop young minds is a very rewarding career. There are also financial benefits to teaching in Iowa. Did you know that a portion of your student loans may be forgiven or canceled if you teach in a designated low-income school or teacher shortage area? More and more Iowans are reaping the rewards of both state and federal programs that help reduce student loan debt while allowing them to pursue their career goals.

### How does loan forgiveness work?

The financial benefit that a borrower receives is forgiveness or cancellation of all or a portion of qualifying student loans. Generally, loan forgiveness applies to federal student loans. It is a post-graduation benefit for student loan borrowers employed in high-need service positions.

There are different loan forgiveness and cancellation opportunities available and the benefits vary by program. To receive the teacher loan forgiveness or cancellation benefits outlined in this brochure, you must agree to teach in designated shortage or high-need areas.

*A teacher affects eternity.  
He can never tell where his  
influence stops.*

*~ Henry Adams*



### MORE INFORMATION

Information on a range of loan cancellation benefits offered through federal, state and private programs can be found on our website. These include service in the federal government, the military, and in professions such as nursing and teaching.

[www.iowaCollegeAid.gov](http://www.iowaCollegeAid.gov)

# FEDERAL Teacher Loan Forgiveness

## To Qualify (up to \$5,000)

You may be eligible for **federal Stafford or Consolidation loan forgiveness of up to \$5,000** if you meet all of the following Federal Teacher Loan Forgiveness criteria:

- ➔ You were a “new borrower” on or after October 1, 1998, who did not have an outstanding balance on a loan through the Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP) or Direct Loan Program as of that date.
- ➔ You teach full-time at a qualified school for five consecutive, complete academic years. At least one of the years of teaching must be after the 1997-1998 academic year.
- ➔ You complete your teaching service at a designated low-income elementary or secondary school.<sup>1</sup>
- ➔ If you teach in an elementary school, the principal of the school must certify that you demonstrate knowledge in your teaching area.
- ➔ If you teach in a secondary school, the principal of the school must certify that you teach in a subject area that is relevant to your academic major.
- ➔ If your teaching service begins on or after October 30, 2004, you must meet the definition of a “highly qualified” teacher.<sup>2</sup>
- ➔ You received the loan that is to be forgiven prior to completing your final year of qualified teaching service.
- ➔ You have not received a benefit for the same teaching service through the AmeriCorps Program.
- ➔ If you have defaulted on student loans, you have made satisfactory repayment arrangements with your loan holder.

## To Qualify (up to \$17,500)

To qualify for up to **\$17,500 in loan forgiveness**, you also must meet the following additional Federal Teacher Loan Forgiveness criteria:

- ➔ You are employed full-time as a mathematics or science teacher in an eligible secondary school or a special education teacher whose primary responsibility is to provide special education to children with disabilities in an eligible elementary or secondary school.
- ➔ You meet the definition of a “highly qualified” teacher.<sup>2</sup>

The chief administrative officer of the school must certify that you are “highly qualified” as defined by the state in which you teach.

## To Apply

You must complete a U.S. Department of Education approved Teacher Loan Forgiveness Application and return it to your loan holder(s).

- ➔ Obtain an application from your loan holder or from the Iowa College Aid website at [www.iowaCollegeAid.gov](http://www.iowaCollegeAid.gov).
- ➔ If your loan balance is less than the maximum forgiveness amount, only your outstanding principal and interest amount may be forgiven.
- ➔ You may be eligible for a forbearance to postpone payments while you complete your teaching service. Check with your loan holder for more details.

# IOWA Teacher Shortage Loan Forgiveness

## To Qualify

In addition to the federal loan forgiveness program, the State of Iowa offers cancellation benefits to teachers. The maximum annual award is 20% of the teacher’s total Federal Stafford Loan balance, including principal and interest, not to exceed the average resident tuition rate established for students attending universities governed by the Iowa Board of Regents for the first year following the recipient’s graduation. For 2009 graduates, the maximum award is \$6,704.

You may be eligible for **federal Stafford or consolidation loan forgiveness** if you meet all of the following Iowa Teacher Shortage Loan Forgiveness criteria:

- ➔ You are a fully licensed teacher and began your first classroom teaching job in Iowa no earlier than July 1, 2007.<sup>3</sup>
- ➔ You are employed full-time for one full year in a teacher shortage area as designated by the Iowa Department of Education.
- ➔ You keep your loan account(s) in good standing. If you need assistance, contact your loan holder to discuss deferment and forbearance options available to postpone payments.

You may receive forgiveness for no more than five consecutive years. If you fail to complete five consecutive years of teaching in the designated shortage areas in Iowa, you will not be considered for subsequent years.

<sup>3</sup> “Teacher” means an individual holding a practitioner’s license issued by the Iowa Board of Educational Examiners who is employed in a non-administrative position in a designated shortage area by a school district or area education agency.

## To Apply

You must annually complete an online Iowa Teacher Shortage Loan Forgiveness Application and submit it to the Iowa College Student Aid Commission.

- ➔ Complete and submit an application at [www.IHaveaPlanIowa.gov](http://www.IHaveaPlanIowa.gov).
- ➔ The administrator of the school where you performed your qualified teaching service must certify your employment.
- ➔ If your loan balance is less than the maximum forgiveness amount, only your outstanding principal and interest amount will be forgiven.

## Iowa Shortage Areas

### Special Education:

- Instructional Strategist I
- Instructional Strategist II LD-BD
- Instructional Strategist II MD
- Pk-K Early Childhood Special Education
- Instructional Strategist II PD
- Birth to 21 Itinerant Hearing Impaired
- Birth to 21 Itinerant Visually Impaired

### General Education:

- 5-12 Science (all)
- 5-12 Mathematics
- K-12 English as a Second Language
- 5-12 Foreign Language
- K-8 & 5-12 Music
- 5-12 Industrial Technology
- 5-12 Agriculture
- 5-12 Family & Consumer Science
- K-8 & 5-12 School Media Specialist
- K-12 Talented & Gifted

<sup>1</sup> The annual directory of designated low-income schools is available at [www.iowaCollegeAid.gov](http://www.iowaCollegeAid.gov).

<sup>2</sup> In Iowa, “highly qualified” means to hold an endorsement in the subject area that you teach. The standards may vary by state.