TEXT OF PROPOSED REGULATIONS

5 CA ADC § 30730 BARCLAYS OFFICIAL CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS
Barclays Official California Code of Regulations
Title 5. Education
Division 4. California Student Aid Commission
Chapter 1. California Student Aid Commission
Article 12.5. Golden State Teacher Grant Program

Adopt new article 12.5. Golden State Teacher Grant Program, Sections 30520, 30521, 30522, 30523, 30524, 30525, 30526, and 30527, California Code of Regulations to read as follows:

(Note: The entire text set forth below is new language in "normal type" proposed to be added to the California Code of Regulations.)

Section 30520. Definitions.
"Academic Year" means July 1 to June 30 inclusive. The starting date of a session shall determine the academic year in which it is included.
"Commission" means California Student Aid Commission.
"Eligible Applicant" means a student currently Enrolled in a professional preparation program leading to a preliminary teaching credential at an Institution and who commits to working in a designated high-need field, as defined in Education Code section 69617(e), at a Priority School for four years within the first five years after completion of the program per section 69617(c)(1).
"Enrolled" means a student who has officially accepted an offer to enroll in a professional preparation program at an Institution.
"Institution" means a qualifying institution that operates a professional preparation program leading to a preliminary teaching credential, as defined in subdivision (l) of section 69432.7 of the Education Code; or an educational entity that operates a teacher preparation program approved by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) with a Main Campus Location or Administrative Entity in California, including teacher preparation programs operated by local educational agencies.
"Main Campus Location or Administrative Entity" means the Institution's sole or primary teaching location, or administrative entity, the duties of which include, but are not limited to, receipt and distribution of financial aid, student enrollment or registration, and academic advising.
"Maximum Award" means a one-time grant payment to an Eligible Applicant of up to $20,000. The maximum award shall be based on the Cost of Attendance as defined below:

(a) "Cost of Attendance" for an Eligible Applicant Enrolled in a qualifying institution, as defined in subdivision (l) of Section 69432.7 of the Education Code means the costs to attend the Institution as determined by the Institution for the Eligible Applicant according to federal financial aid methodology for the Academic Year.
(b) "Cost of Attendance" for an Eligible Applicant Enrolled in a teaching preparation program approved by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing with a Main Campus Location Or Administrative Entity in California means the program costs charged to the Eligible Applicant, tuition and any associated fees, housing, food, books, transportation, and personal expenses for an academic year. The Commission will use its Standardized Student Expense Budget to determine the Eligible Applicant's "cost of attendance."

"Priority School" means a California elementary or secondary school with 55 (fifty-five) percent or more of its pupils being unduplicated pupils as defined in subdivision (b) of California

Education Code §42238.02. The Commission, in coordination with the California Department of Education shall publish a list of priority schools by January 1 of each year.
"Program" means the Golden State Teacher Grant Program as described in Education Code section 69617.
"Standardized Student Expense Budget" means the annual cost of attendance developed by the Commission as required by Education Code section 69432.9(b).

(a) A Standardized Student Expense Budget is developed for three categories of students based on where they live: students living with parents, student living on campus, and students living off campus.

(b) All three Standardized Student Expense Budgets are calculated with the following costs:

(1) Tuition and Fees (as determined based on the institutional charges for the program the student attends);
(2) Books and Supplies (determined by the Commission through the semi-annual Student Expenses and Resources Survey (SEARS) as described in subdivision (c));
(3) Food (for students living on campus, as determined based on institutional charges for the program the student attend; for all other students, as determined by the Commission through the semi-annual SEARS as described in subdivision (c));
(4) Housing (for students living on campus, as determined based on institutional charges for the program the student attend; for all other students, as determined by the Commission through the semi-annual SEARS as described in subdivision (c));
(5) Transportation (as determined by the Commission through the semi-annual SEARS as described in subdivision (c));
(6) Personal Expenses (as determined by the Commission through the semi-annual SEARS as described in subdivision (c));
(7) Child/Dependent Care (reasonable expenditures based on documentation provided by the student); and
(8) Loan Fees (for student loans borrowers, the actual or average loan origination and insurance expenses).

(c) Amounts for food, books and supplies, off-campus housing, transportation, and personal expenses are calculated by the Commission using the results of the SEARS. The SEARS is conducted on a semi-annual basis. The SEARS includes all CSU and UC campuses and a regional sampling of community colleges and private colleges and universities. For any institution with fewer than 1,500 students, all students are surveyed. For institutions with more than 1,500 students, a representative sample of 1,500 students are surveyed. In years when the SEARS is not conducted, the budget amounts for the expenses calculated based on the SEARS are adjusted based on the California Consumer Price Index.

(d) For academic year 2022-23, the current Standardized Student Expense Budget can be found at: https://www.csac.ca.gov/post/student-expense-budget. For academic years 2023-24 and 2024-25, pursuant to subdivisions (b) and (c).

"Teaching Agreement" means an Eligible Applicant's signed certification acknowledging and agreeing to comply with the terms of this Program as defined in statute and this Article. The agreement will include the Eligible Applicant's name, contact information (including address, phone number, and email address), the name of the program the Eligible Applicant is Enrolled in, the grant amount the Eligible Applicant is deemed eligible for, and the terms and schedule of the Eligible Applicant's potential repayment obligation.

Note: Authority cited: Section 69617, Education Code. Reference: Section 69617, Education Code.

Section 30521. Application.
An application to participate in the Program shall be provided by the Commission and will be available through an online portal. An applicant shall submit the application through the online portal to the Commission by April 1 of the Academic Year for which the applicant is applying. The applicant shall provide the following information to the Commission:

(a) Social Security Number,
(b) Last Name, First Name and Middle Initial;
(c) Address;
(d) Date of Birth;
(e) Phone Number;
(f) Enrollment status and Institution and professional preparation program name;
(g) E-mail Address;
(h) Desired credential and high need field in which the applicant plans to teach;
(j) The applicant's signature under penalty of perjury, under the laws of the State of California, that all statements contained in the application and any accompanying documents are true and correct, with full knowledge that all statements made in the application are subject to investigation. Any false or dishonest answer to any question may be grounds for denial to participate in the Program and subject to prosecution under applicable state law. The applicant authorizes the exchange of any student records and any application information between the Commission and the program in which the applicant is enrolled. The applicant shall provide documentation to verify all information provided, if requested.

Note: Authority cited: Section 69617, Education Code. Reference: Section 69617, Education Code.

Section 30522. Applicant Priority.
Golden State Teacher Grant Awards will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis through the 2025-26 Academic Year or until funding appropriated for the Program is exhausted, whichever occurs first. If there are insufficient funds for a maximum grant award, the last grant recipient shall receive a partial award of the remaining funds.

Note: Authority cited: Section 69617, Education Code. Reference: Section 69617, Education Code.

Section 30523. Eligibility Determination.
(a) The Commission shall review received applications to ensure they are complete and meet Program requirements.

(b) The Commission shall maintain an annual roster for each Institution. The roster shall identify all applicants for each Institution, and applicants who are ultimately determined eligible to receive a grant. Upon completing its initial evaluation of applications, the Commission shall provide an updated roster to each Institution for which it has received applications.

(c) The Institution shall verify an applicant's enrollment in an eligible professional preparation program within ten business days of receiving the applicant's information and updated roster from the Commission. For each verified enrollment, the Institution's financial aid office, or

other appropriate personnel, shall determine the Maximum Award, which does not exceed the applicant's financial need and Cost of Attendance.

(d) Upon the Institution's enrollment verification and determination of an award amount, the applicant shall submit a completed and signed Teaching Agreement to the Commission.

(e) Awards will be made on a first-come, first-served basis to Eligible Applicants who have submitted a completed and signed Teaching Agreement.

(f) An applicant who has received Golden State Teacher Grant funding for any prior Academic Year is ineligible.

(g) Upon receiving grant funds, and through completion of the teaching obligation or repayment, the grant recipient must provide notice to the Commission within 21 days of any change in name or address, professional preparation program, or any other factor that may affect the grant recipient's continued eligibility for the Program.

(h) Applicants determined to be ineligible for the Program shall receive written notice of the Commission's determination within 60 days of receipt of the application.

Note: Authority cited: Section 69617, Education Code. Reference: Section 69617, Education Code.

Section 30524. Institution Responsibilities.

(a) Each Institution shall designate a coordinator to manage the Institution's participation in the Program and provide the name and contact information for the coordinator to the Commission.

(b) The coordinator shall provide each applicant for enrollment in an eligible professional preparation program, with general program information and updates regarding the Program.

(c) The coordinator shall work with the Institution's financial aid program or other Institution personnel to determine the Maximum Award for each Eligible Applicant. The Maximum Award plus any other estimated financial aid shall not exceed the Cost of Attendance. However, an award under this Article may (1) supplant subsidized or unsubsidized loans; and (2) supplant the expected family contribution to the Eligible Applicant's award package, consistent with the Institution's financial aid packaging rules. The award amount shall be based on the Academic Year in which the applicant applies.

Note: Authority cited: Section 69617, Education Code. Reference: Section 69617, Education Code.

Section 30525. Teaching Agreement.

(a) Upon the Institution's verification that an applicant has Enrolled in an eligible professional preparation program, and otherwise meets Program requirements, the Commission will send the applicant an emailed notice stating that the Teaching Agreement is available for review and signature on the applicant's WebGrants Account. The applicant shall sign the Teaching Agreement within 30 calendar days of the date of Commission's email notice. Except as provided in subdivision (b), failure to sign the agreement within 30 calendar days will render the applicant ineligible for the Program.

(b) The 30-day deadline will be extended by the Commission upon a showing of good cause by the applicant. Good cause includes, but is not limited to, the following:

(1) the student contacted the Commission prior to the 30-day deadline requesting clarification about the information within the Teaching Agreement,
(2) the student is working with their Financial Aid Office to determine the correct award amount,
(3) the institution contacts the Commission on behalf of the student requesting an extension due to extenuating circumstances deemed appropriate by the institution (e.i., bereavement, injury.)

Note: Authority cited: Section 69617, Education Code. Reference: Section 69617, Education Code.

Section 30526. Payments.
(a) The Commission will process Golden State Teacher Grant award payments upon receipt of the signed Teaching Agreement. The payment will be made in the Eligible Applicant's name in care of the Institution and mailed directly to the Institution.

(1) The Institution may disburse the entire award to the Eligible Applicant upon evidence of the Eligible Applicant's participation in the Institution's credential program. Any such disbursement shall be made within 15 calendar days of the beginning of the Eligible Applicant's participation, or, in the case of an Eligible Applicant who was already participating at the time of application, within 15 calendar days of the Institution's receipt of the funds from the Commission.

(2) Alternatively, the Institution may disburse the award in allotments per semester or quarter, depending on the Institution's academic schedule. If the Institution disburses the grant funds in allotments, each allotment shall be disbursed to the Eligible Applicant upon evidence of the Eligible Applicant's participation in the Institution's credential program for each quarter or semester in the Academic Year in which the Eligible Applicant applied. Any such disbursement shall be made within 15 calendar days of the Eligible Applicant's demonstration of participation or, in the case of an Eligible Applicant who was already participating at the time of application, the initial allotment shall be made within 15 calendar days of the Institution's receipt of the funds from the Commission.

(b) All grant funds awarded to an Eligible Applicant shall be disbursed by the Institution within the Academic Year for which the Eligible Applicant applied.

(c) If, after the Commission has disbursed grant funds to an Institution, the Eligible Applicant fails to participate in the Institution's credential program, the Institution shall return any grant funds not disbursed to the Eligible Applicant to the Commission within 15 calendar days after the Institution confirms the non-participation.

Note: Authority cited: Section 69617, Education Code. Reference: Section 69617, Education Code.

Section 30527. Failure to Comply with Applicable Laws and Regulations.

(a) (1) A grant recipient who fails to meet the teaching service requirement and schedule for this Program, as specified in Education Code section 69617(c), shall repay to CSAC 25 percent of the total grant amount received for each year of nonperformance.

(2) A grant recipient who teaches at a Priority School shall not be required to repay grant funds if during his or her four years of teaching the school loses its qualification as a Priority School.

(b) A school year shall be counted toward the required four-year teaching requirement if a grant recipient is unable to complete the school year when any of the following:

(1) The grant recipient has completed at least one-half of the school year.

(2) The employer deems the grant recipient to have fulfilled contractual requirements for the school year relative to salary increases, probationary or permanent status, and retirement.

(3) The grant recipient was unable to teach due to financial circumstances of the school district, including non-renewal of the employee contract for the succeeding school year.

(4) The grant recipient has a condition covered under the federal Family and Medical Leave Act of 1996 (29 U.S.C. Sec. 2601 et seq.) or similar state law, or otherwise can demonstrate a physical or mental disability recognized by the Social Security Administration preventing them from completing their professional preparation program or teaching requirement.

(5) The grant recipient was called or ordered to active-duty status for more than 30 days as a member of a reserve component of the Armed Forces of the United States.

(c) The grant recipient shall provide written email notice to the Commission at goldenstateteachers@csac.ca.gov within 21 days of failing to meet Program requirements. If the grant recipient believes any of the exceptions described in subsection (b) apply, the notice shall include information and documentation to support their claim.

(d) The Commission shall have 30 days to review the grant recipient's written notice and determine the grant recipient's repayment obligations, if any. If the Commission determines that repayment is required, the repayment obligation will be based on a monthly payment schedule not exceeding $5,000 per year. The first payment shall be due on the first day of the month following the grant recipient's receipt of the Commission's determination and repayment schedule.

(e) A grant recipient's failure to comply with repayment obligations may result in the Commission seeking repayment through tax refund or wage garnishment.

Note: Authority cited: Section 69617, Education Code. Reference: Section 69617, Education Code.