

# Item 8

## (Information Item)

### Financial aid programs for aspiring teachers

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#### **SUMMARY:**

This item provides an overview of the financial aid programs designed to support California's aspiring teachers administered by the California Student Aid Commission (Commission): Golden State Teacher Grant, Cal Grant Teacher Credential Program, and Middle Class Scholarship Teacher Credential Program.

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

This is an information item; no action is required.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

##### **Golden State Teacher Grant Program**

The Golden State Teacher Grant (GSTG) Program awards up to \$20,000 to students currently enrolled in a professional preparation program approved by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) and working towards earning their preliminary teaching or pupil personnel services credential. To qualify for the award, students must:

- Submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or CA Dream Act Application (CADAA).
- Submit a GSTG Application.
- Sign the Service Agreement (SA) once their institution has verified the student's eligibility. The SA outlines the program requirements, service commitment, and repayment obligation of the grant.
- Complete their program and obtain their credential within 6 years from the first distribution of GSTG funds.
- Commit to work at a priority school in California for 4 years within 8 years of completing their program.
- Maintain satisfactory academic progress (SAP).

GSTG recipients have the opportunity to apply for a renewal GSTG award if they received less than the maximum award available at their institution in previous academic years and continue to meet all the eligibility criteria. A GSTG recipient may receive an award for only one eligible professional preparation program.

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Applicants pursuing a teaching credential who are already in process of clearing a teaching credential, already hold a clear teaching credential, or are in an induction program are ineligible for the GSTG.

## Service Obligation

All GSTG recipients commit to work at an eligible priority school or California State Preschool Program (CSPP) for 4 years within 8 years of the date they complete their professional preparation program. Any time working prior to completing their program and obtaining their credential is not counted towards the 4-year service requirement.

A CSPP is a state-funded or federally funded preschool program in California, including tribal and Head Start programs. A new CSPP list is published every school year that includes all eligible, active programs.

Priority schools are CA public schools that provide instruction in any grade K-12 with more than 55% of pupils classified as English Learners, eligible for free or reduced-price meals, or current foster youth. Priority schools are not the same as schools funded by Title I. The priority school list is compiled by April 15 annually using data submitted via CALPADS to the California Department of Education (CDE) by each public California school. Nonpublic schools are not eligible as priority schools as they do not report data to CDE.

When determining an eligible school for employment, GSTG recipients may refer to either the list published for the school year they received initial GSTG funds or the school year they are seeking new employment for after completing their program.

## Repayment

GSTG recipients have 6 years to complete their program and be issued their preliminary teaching or pupil personnel services credential by the CTC from the date the Commission sends their initial GSTG payment to their institution. Failure to meet this requirement will result in immediate placement on a 4-year Repayment Schedule for 100% of the grant funds disbursed.

The 8-year timeframe to complete the 4-year service obligation begins on the date that the GSTG recipient completes their program. At the end of the 8-year timeframe, they will be required to repay 25% of their total awarded amount for each year their service obligation is not met. For those who complete their obligation, no repayment will be necessary. The repayment is for funds awarded only, no interest.

For example, if the obligation is met for:

1 year = Repay 75% of the awarded amount

2 years = Repay 50% of the awarded amount

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3 years = Repay 25% of the awarded amount  
4 years = No repayment, obligation complete

The 4-year service does not need to be completed consecutively as recipients have the full 8 years from their program completion date to complete the obligation. Furthermore, recipients may change schools during their service obligation period as long as they are working at eligible priority schools or CSPPs.

## Awards

The following tables show the last 3-year GSTG awards and payments as of January 25, 2024. The 2023-24 application is open through April 1, 2024.

### 2021-22

Segment	Eligible Awardees	Paid Recipients	Paid Rate
UC	206	206	100%
CSU	699	695	99.4%
Private	1,290	1,272	98.6%
LEA*	542	542	100%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2,737</b>	<b>2,715</b>	<b>99.5%</b>

### 2022-23

Segment	Eligible Awardees	Paid Recipients	Paid Rate
UC	390	390	100%
CSU	2,406	2,406	100%
Private	4,355	4,355	100%
LEA*	817	815	99.8%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>7,968</b>	<b>7,966</b>	<b>99.9%</b>

### 2023-24

Segment	Eligible Awardees	Paid Recipients	Paid Rate
UC	402	401	99.8%
CSU	2,822	2,822	100%
Private	4,180	4,120	98.6%
LEA*	701	691	98.6%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>8,105</b>	<b>8,034</b>	<b>99.2%</b>

\*LEA – Local Educational Agency

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The GSTG is the newest program specifically serving California aspiring teachers with an up to \$20,000 award to support them in completing their teaching credential. As seen in the tables above, the program quickly grew from the 2,700 plus GSTG awardees in 2021-22, to almost triple that the following year. The share of awards amongst the 4 different school segments are: around 50 percent of GSTG awards go to aspiring teachers attending private universities, about 30 percent to those attending a CSU campus, around 15 percent to students attending a local educational agency, and about 5 percent to students attending a UC campus. The GSTG program is on track to spend all available funding before the June 30, 2026 deadline.

### Cal Grant Teacher Credential Program

Undergraduate Cal Grant A and B recipients who plan to enroll in a teaching credential program (TCP) after they receive their bachelor's degree may be eligible to renew their Cal Grant award for the equivalent of an additional year of full-time attendance. The additional year of payment is provided to students who are seeking an initial teaching credential and cannot be used for other graduate level courses of study. To qualify for the Cal Grant TCP, students must:

- Submit a FAFSA or CADAA for the corresponding academic year in which they plan to receive the Cal Grant TCP.
- Submit a Request for Cal Grant Teaching Credential Program Benefits (G-44 TCP form)
- Have received at least one payment in the Cal Grant A or B program as an undergraduate.
- Have received a bachelor's degree or completed all required coursework for their bachelor's degree.
- Are accepted and enrolled in a professional teacher preparation program at a California Commission on Teacher Credentialing approved institution within 15 months of the end of the term for which the recipient last received a Cal Grant payment.
- Have not received or submitted an application for an initial Teaching Credential, such as a Preliminary or Clear Credential.
- Maintain financial need for a Cal Grant renewal.

Eligible Cal Grant recipients should apply for TCP benefits as soon as possible after completing their bachelor's degree and after being formally or conditionally accepted into a teaching credential program at an eligible institution. There is no teaching obligation or repayment as part of this program.

Awards:

The following tables show the last three years of Cal Grant TCP awards and payments as of January 25, 2024. The 2023-24 application is open through April 1, 2024.

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2021-22

Segment	Eligible Awardees	Paid Recipients	Paid Rate	Average Award
UC	228	214	93.9%	\$11,433
CSU	450	369	82.0%	\$6,797
Private Non-Profit	201	167	83.1%	\$6,847
Private For Profit	1	1	100%	\$4,401
<b>Totals</b>	<b>880</b>	<b>751</b>	<b>89.7%</b>	<b>\$7,370</b>

2022-23

Segment	Eligible Awardees	Paid Recipients	Paid Rate	Average Award
UC	206	188	91.3%	\$11,922
CSU	370	300	81.1%	\$6,304
Private Non-Profit	199	160	80.4%	\$8,260
Private For Profit	4	3	75%	\$14,290
<b>Totals</b>	<b>779</b>	<b>651</b>	<b>81.9%</b>	<b>\$10,194</b>

2023-24

Segment	Eligible Awardees	Paid Recipients	Paid Rate	Average Award
UC	203	169	83.3%	\$6,789
CSU	304	192	63.2%	\$4,661
Private Non-Profit	187	144	77.0%	\$7,083
<b>Totals</b>	<b>694</b>	<b>505</b>	<b>74.5%</b>	<b>\$6,178</b>

The Cal Grant TCP program also provides aspiring teachers with the opportunity to renew their Cal Grant award for an additional year of full-time attendance. Students have the ability to apply for this benefit in addition to the GSTG grant if they meet all the eligibility criteria and have enough room in their financial aid package. Cal Grant TCP award amounts vary by segment and the distribution of awards are as follows: around 50 percent of awards at CSU campuses, about 25% at UC campuses and 25% at private institutions.

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## Middle Class Scholarship Teacher Credential Program

Students pursuing their first undergraduate baccalaureate degree or who have completed a baccalaureate degree and have been admitted to and are enrolled in a program of professional teacher preparation at an institution approved by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing are eligible for a new or renewal Middle Class Scholarship (MCS) TCP award if all other program eligibility requirements are met. Eligible students may qualify for an additional 100 percent of MCS lifetime eligibility including:

- Students pursuing a subsequent teacher credential if they have not previously received an MCS award for a TCP while obtaining a prior teacher credential.
- Students who are dually enrolled in a master's degree program or who have obtained a master's degree. MCS funds for TCPs are subject to the teacher credential units the student is enrolled in.

Students at UC and CSU are automatically considered if they meet the program eligibility criteria, including having submitted a FAFSA or CADAA by the March 2 (in the case of this year the deadline was extended to April 2) deadline. Participating campuses submit MCS enrollment files to the Commission to have their students considered for the MCS and MCS TCP which like the Cal Grant TCP, provides aspiring teachers with up to a year of full-time attendance of MCS funding to support them in their attainment of their teacher credential.

### Awards

The following tables show the last three years of MCS TCP awards and payments as of January 31, 2024. Awards for 2023-24 are still open.

#### 2021-22

Segment	Eligible Awardees	Paid Recipients	Paid Rate	Average Award
UC	6	6	100.0%	\$1,997
CSU	1,116	1,098	98.4%	\$1,627
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1,122</b>	<b>1,104</b>	<b>99.2%</b>	<b>\$1,812</b>

#### 2022-23

Segment	Eligible Awardees	Paid Recipients	Paid Rate	Average Award
UC	11	11	100.0%	\$2,306
CSU	3,929	3,909	99.5%	\$2,023
<b>Totals</b>	<b>3,940</b>	<b>3,920</b>	<b>99.7%</b>	<b>\$2,165</b>

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2023-24

Segment	Eligible Awardees	Paid Recipients	Paid Rate	Average Award
UC	3	2	66.7%	\$1,660
CSU	2,906	2,194	75.5%	\$2,108
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2,909</b>	<b>2,196</b>	<b>71.1%</b>	<b>\$1,884</b>

As seen in the tables above, MCS TCP awards more than tripled from 2021-22 to 2022-23 most likely due to the changes in the MCS program from a tuition-fee structure to a cost of attendance model. Interestingly and very different from the Cal Grant TCP program, the majority of MCS TCP awardees are attending a CSU campus and less than 1 percent of awardees attend a UC campus. Aspiring teachers could potentially qualify for all 3 of these programs if they meet all the eligibility criteria and have sufficient room within their financial aid package. As of January 2024, a total of 438 students have a Cal Grant TCP and GSTG, 373 have an MCS TCP and GSTG, 305 have a Cal Grant TCP and MCS TCP, and only 64 have all 3 awards for aspiring teachers: Cal Grant TCP, MCS TCP, and GSTG.

### Workgroup Membership

Commissions staff participate as members of the California State Collaborative for the Educator Workforce led by WestEd. Through the Collaborative, WestEd is conducting research to offer teacher preparation program funding guidance for districts, teacher preparation programs, and prospective teacher candidates.

The purpose of this research is to inform a state-wide resource that will be hosted and disseminated by state agencies, such as the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing and the California Department of Education. This multifaceted resource will support prospective teachers in understanding the potential funding sources available to them as they pursue high quality teacher preparation pathways, and support teacher preparation programs to effectively leverage funding to build sustainable, affordable, and high-quality programs.

As there are multiple teacher preparation programs, the Commission participates in various workgroups to understand the diverse pathways available and strategies to support them financially.

### RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S):

Tae Kang, Deputy Director  
Program Administration and Services Division