

## ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS FOR TEACHERS

### Federal Pell Grants

At some institutions, students pursuing teacher certification may be eligible for Federal Pell Grants. Contact your college financial aid office to see if you are eligible.

### Teach for America (TFA)

TFA is a program which pays certain graduates to teach for two years at disadvantaged schools. Through this program, teachers may also be eligible for forbearance, interest payment benefits, as well as additional funds to repay their loans. For more information, go to: [www.teachforamerica.org](http://www.teachforamerica.org).

### Educators for Maine

The Educators for Maine program is a merit-based forgivable loan program that provides assistance to students pursuing a career in teaching, including speech pathology and child care. For more information, please visit the FAME web site at [www.famemaine.com](http://www.famemaine.com).

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information about the eligibility requirements for teacher loan forgiveness, go to [www.studentaid.ed.gov](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov).

For more details about other student aid programs, visit the Federal Student Aid web site at [www.studentaid.gov](http://www.studentaid.gov) or call the Information Center at 1-800-4-FED-AID.

The Finance Authority of Maine provides students and families with important assistance and guidance in applying for financial aid for higher education. FAME can help students and families access a number of grant, loan, and scholarship programs designed to help with the costs of higher education.

We have staff available to answer questions that you or your families may have regarding financial aid.

Visit our web site at [www.famemaine.com](http://www.famemaine.com) or call us at **1-800-228-3734** for more information.

We look forward to hearing from you.

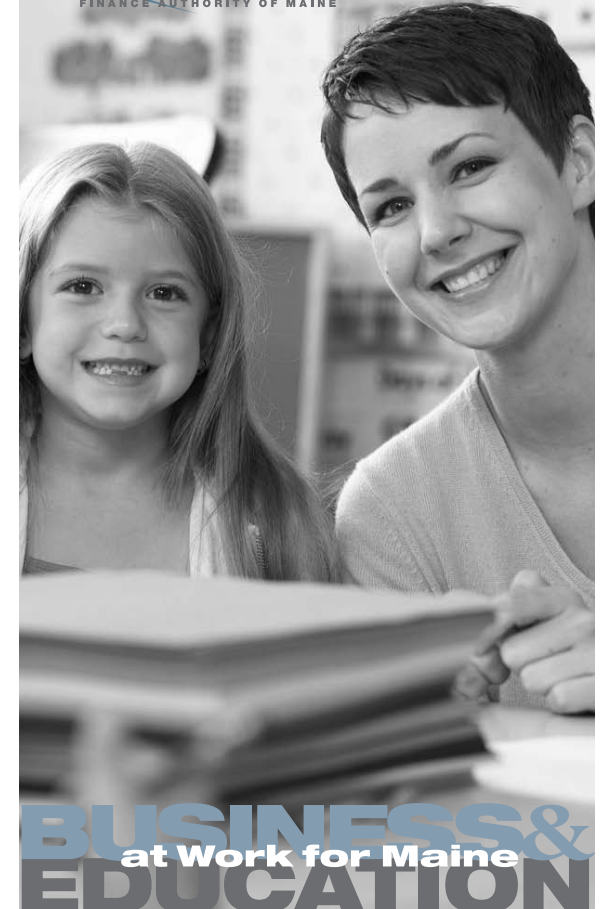


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# Federal Loan Forgiveness Programs for Teachers



## FEDERAL TEACHER LOAN FORGIVENESS

In order to encourage individuals to enter and remain in the teaching profession, the Teacher Loan Forgiveness Program provides loan forgiveness of up to \$17,500. Through this program, teachers may be eligible to have all or part of their outstanding loan balance forgiven. Eligible loans include Stafford Loans borrowed under the Federal Family Loan Program (FFELP), Federal Direct Loans, or Federal Consolidation Loans used to repay those loans. There are two different teacher loan forgiveness maximums (\$5,000 and \$17,500) and each have their own set of eligibility criteria.

### **You may receive up to \$5,000 in loan forgiveness if you meet all of the following criteria:**

You borrowed your outstanding loan(s) on or after October 1, 1998, and had no outstanding balance on FFELP or Federal Direct Loans received before October 1, 1998.

You must have taught full-time at a designated low-income elementary or secondary school for five consecutive, complete academic years. At least one of the years of teaching service must be after the 1997-98 academic year. For a complete list of designated low-income schools, please visit [www.tcli.ed.gov](http://www.tcli.ed.gov).

The loan for which you are requesting forgiveness must have been made before the end of your fifth year of qualifying teaching service.

If you performed your teaching service in an elementary school, the chief administrative officer of the school where you performed the service must certify that you demonstrated knowledge and teaching skills in reading, writing, mathematics, and other areas of the elementary school curriculum.

If you performed your teaching service in a secondary school, the chief administrative officer of the school where you performed the service must certify that you taught in a subject area that was relevant to your academic major.

If your teaching service began on or after October 30, 2004, the chief administrative officer of the school where you performed your service must certify that you meet the definition of "highly qualified" as defined in the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001*.

### **You may receive up to \$17,500 in loan forgiveness if you meet all of the previous criteria, as well as the following additional criteria:**

You must have been either (1) employed full-time as a highly qualified mathematics or science teacher in a public or private non-profit secondary school; or (2) employed full-time as a highly qualified special education teacher whose primary responsibility was to provide special education to children with disabilities in a public or private non-profit elementary or secondary school.

The chief administrative officer of the school where you performed your service must certify that you meet the definition of "highly qualified" as defined in the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001*.

## FEDERAL PERKINS LOAN CANCELLATION

Certain teachers who have Federal Perkins Loans may be eligible to have up to 100% of their loans cancelled. To qualify for these provisions, you must serve full time in a public or non-profit elementary or secondary school system as a:

Teacher in a school serving students from low-income families;

Special education teacher, including teachers of infants, toddlers, children, or youth with disabilities; or

Teacher in the fields of mathematics, science, foreign languages, or bilingual education or in any other field of expertise that is determined by a state education agency to have a shortage of qualified teachers in that state.

For more information about Federal Perkins Loan Forgiveness, please visit [www.studentaid.ed.gov](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov), or contact the college that you attended.

## APPLYING FOR FORGIVENESS

You must complete a Teacher Loan Forgiveness Application and return it to the holder(s) of the loan(s) for which you are requesting forgiveness. In addition, the chief administrative officer of the school where you performed your qualifying teaching service must certify on the application that your teaching service met the requirements for loan forgiveness for all five years. To obtain an application, contact your loan holder.

## USEFUL WEB SITES

[www.nsls.ed.gov](http://www.nsls.ed.gov)

[www.studentaid.ed.gov](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov)

[www.finaid.org/loans/forgiveness.phtml](http://www.finaid.org/loans/forgiveness.phtml)

[www.aft.org/teachers/jft/loanforgiveness.htm](http://www.aft.org/teachers/jft/loanforgiveness.htm)