

## PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

The Educators for Maine Program is a competitive, merit-based forgivable loan program, which provides financial assistance for Maine students pursuing undergraduate education, graduate certification or graduate education who demonstrate academic achievement and an interest in pursuing a career in teaching\*, including speech pathologists in schools, or childcare, in Maine.

*\*Currently the definition of a teacher also includes Chapter I tutor, guidance counselor and librarian-media specialist.*

In addition to completing FAME's 5-page online application, a student must:

- Be a Maine resident who will be enrolled full-time at an eligible post-secondary school beginning Fall 2023
- Have a minimum 3.0 cumulative grade point average based on a 4.0 scale
- Demonstrate academic achievement, community service involvement, school activities and leadership positions
- Upload all required forms and documents when completing the online application
- Submit the 2023-2024 FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) by May 1, 2023

For undergraduate students, the loan amount is \$5,000.

*This program is governed by Maine law as set forth in 20-A M.R.S.A. §12501 et seq. and Chapter 610 of the Rules of the Finance Authority of Maine.*

## INSTRUCTIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

Complete the online application and upload required documents to FAME by **May 1, 2023**. **IMPORTANT NOTE:** Once you begin the online application, you must finish the process. The application cannot be saved to finish later.

Applicants must:

- Complete the Educators for Maine Program Online Application carefully.
- Attach an essay (in .pdf format) within the online application. Explain how your professional, academic, or personal experience sets you apart from other applicants. Please include the reasons that you aspire to be an educator, speech pathologist, or childcare provider, and the likelihood you will work in Maine. Essay must be typed, double-spaced and approximately 500 words. Essays will be reviewed for grammar, style, and content.
- Provide your current high school counselor's email address during the application process. They will provide your high school transcript and a copy of your school profile.
- File the 2023-2024 FAFSA by May 1, 2023. (FAME, as a Maine state agency, will automatically receive a copy of your FAFSA after you file.)

You must submit all required documents for your application to be considered complete. Applications that are not complete by the deadline date indicated will be ineligible. FAME assumes no responsibility for identifying and/or providing notification of missing or erroneous information.

## APPLICATION CHECKLIST

- EFM Application Online—complete pages 1, 2, and 5; review pages 3-4
- Essay (uploaded in **pdf format**; no other file format accepted)
- Your current high school counselor's email address
- Submitted 2023-2024 FAFSA