

Transition to Teaching Scholarship

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Updated: January 17, 2025

Please review our Frequently Asked Questions for common questions, definitions, and clarifications. If you have any additional questions, please contact the Indiana Commission for Higher Education at NextTeacher@che.in.gov.

The FAQ includes:

- General Information
- Eligibility Requirements
- Application Procedures
- Selecting Recipients
- Scholarship Utilization
- Promissory Note
- Service Requirements

General Information

What is the Transition to Teaching Scholarship?

The Transition to Teaching Scholarship is a scholarship that provides students interested in pursuing a career in education the opportunity to earn a one-me, non-renewable scholarship of ***up to*** \$10,000. In exchange, students agree to teach for five years at an eligible Indiana school or ***repay*** the corresponding, prorated amount of the scholarship plus interest.

How much is the scholarship?

The scholarship provides ***up to*** \$10,000.

- The \$10,000 is eligible to be applied towards the cost of an approved Transition to Teaching Program. If the Transition to Teaching Program costs less than \$10,000, the Transition to Teaching Scholarship will cover the cost for the program and initial practitioner licensure (\$37.50).

How much will I receive?

The scholarship will equate to program costs incurred during the eligibility period (up to \$10,000).

Is this a scholarship or a loan?

The Transition to Teaching Scholarship is a scholarship program with a five-year service requirement. If the five-year service requirement is not fulfilled, the prorated amount of the scholarship will become a loan plus interest.



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For what can the scholarship be used? Is it restricted to tuition and fees?

The scholarship may be used for your Transition to Teaching Program's tuition, fees, and initial practitioner licensure fee (\$37.50).

Where can I use the scholarship?

The scholarship is eligible to be applied towards program costs at [approved Transition to Teaching Programs](#).

Eligibility Requirements

What are the eligibility requirements for the scholarship?

The applicant must:

- possess a baccalaureate degree from an accredited postsecondary four (4) year institution;
- have enrolled in a Transition to Teaching program described in IC 20-28-4;
- be employed or volunteer at a K-12 school in the state of Indiana;
- agree in writing to:
- complete a Transition to Teaching program described in IC 20-28-4 and obtain an initial practitioner license under IC 20-28; and
- teach for at least five (5) years in a public school or an eligible school (as defined in IC 20-51-1-4.7) in Indiana after obtaining the initial practitioner license under IC 20-28-4-6;
- meet any other criteria established by the Commission.

Who can apply?

Applicants that are enrolled at an [eligible Transition to Teaching Program](#) are encouraged to apply.

Am I required to provide proof of income for the Transition to Teaching Scholarship?

No. The Commission will conduct the income verification process on your behalf. If additional information is required, the Commission will request the necessary documentation via email.

Application Procedures

Where do I apply?

The application has closed for the 2024-2025 academic year.

If I was denied the scholarship once, can I apply again?

Yes, denied applicants are welcome to apply for the scholarship again, provided all the eligibility requirements are met.

Selecting Recipients

How are scholarship recipients determined?

The scholarship is awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. However, per statute, applicants with a household income of \$100,000 or less will be prioritized for selection.



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Scholarship Utilization

What timeframe does the scholarship cover?

The scholarship may be applied towards program costs incurred during the eligible award period.

I began my Transition to Teaching Program prior to the award's start date. Can the scholarship cover the costs?

Unfortunately, the scholarship is not eligible to be applied towards costs incurred prior to the award's start date.

Promissory Note

Why is a promissory note required for this scholarship?

The promissory note is a legally binding written agreement by which the scholarship recipient agrees to the terms of the scholarship.

How do I complete the promissory note?

Heartland ECSI will administer your promissory note via email. Selected recipients will receive an email from Heartland ECSI with a link and a PIN number to complete the promissory note. Any questions about the promissory note may be directed to Heartland ECSI at 1-888-549-3274.

What information is collected by the promissory note?

The promissory note collects the following information:

- Contact information;
- Individual PIN Number, provided by ECSI;
- Entrance counseling, loan terms, and requirements;
- Rights and responsibilities;
- Student information, next of kin, and two references;
- Private education loan approval disclosure;
- Self-certification information; and
- Signed promissory note and confirmation of receipt

Why does the promissory note list the Indiana Commission for Higher Education as my school?

A promissory note is a legal agreement between a borrower (the scholarship recipient) and a lender (Indiana Commission for Higher Education) that details the terms of the agreement.

Service Requirements

How quickly am I expected to secure a teaching position after program completion?

Each recipient receives a 6-month grace period (deferment) following program completion.

How do I report that I am fulfilling the service requirement to avoid being billed?

You must submit a Deferment/Cancellation Form and Employment Verification Letter. The Employment Verification Letter (as mentioned in Section 4 of the Deferment/Cancellation Form) is a short letter written by an administrator at your school which includes:



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- Your start date;
- The school at which you teach;
- The grade/subject in which you teach; and
- A few of your teaching duties

Please return **both** documents to NextTeacher@che.in.gov for processing.

If I don't teach for five years, how much of the scholarship will I pay back?

Each year that you teach as a full-time classroom teacher at an eligible K-12 school, 20% of your scholarship will be canceled. The remaining, uncanceled portion of your scholarship will become a loan.

- For example: You've taught as a classroom teacher for three years, and a 60% cancellation has been applied towards your balance to credit you for your service. The remaining 40% will convert to a loan, plus 7% interest.

Do I have to teach in Indiana?

Yes. Recipients may teach at any [eligible Indiana school](#) to fulfill the five-year service requirement. However, recipients are **not** required to teach at the same school for all five years.

What subjects and grade levels can I teach?

Per statute, recipients are permitted to teach any subject for grades Kindergarten through 12th. Pre-K or younger grade levels are not eligible to fulfill the teaching requirements.



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