

**TOPIC:                   TEACH COLORADO SCHOLARSHIP GUIDELINES**

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**I.     SUMMARY**

This action item presents guidelines proposed by Department of Higher Education (DHE) staff by which institutions of higher education will be able to submit applications for a grant from the Teach Colorado Grant Initiative to fund scholarships to assist teacher education candidates who will teach in high-needs content areas. Once approved by the Commission, these guidelines will serve as the basis for a Request for Proposal to be issued to public institutions of higher education in Colorado.

**II.    BACKGROUND**

**Teach Colorado Grant Initiative**

Senate Bill 08-133, signed into law by Governor Ritter in May 2008, established the Teach Colorado Grant Initiative to give financial incentives to college students to enter the teaching profession and thereby increase the number of teachers in high-need areas, including but not limited to mathematics, science, special education, English language acquisition, music and world languages. Under this bill, the DHE is authorized to administer a program of grants to public institutions of higher education, which in turn will create scholarships for high-ability students in approved teacher preparation programs who excel in high-need content areas and who demonstrate an interest in or commitment to teaching as a career.

**III.   STAFF ANALYSIS**

**Guidelines**

Public institutions of higher education may apply for funds from DHE to create scholarships for students who are seeking a baccalaureate degree and have enrolled in an approved teacher preparation program, students who demonstrate excellence in a high-need content area and are considering enrolling in an approved teacher preparation program, and students who have completed a baccalaureate degree or higher and have enrolled or are considering enrolling in an approved teacher preparation program. Scholarships shall not be released, however, until the student has enrolled in an approved teacher preparation program. The amount of a scholarship awarded to an individual student by an institution of higher education shall not exceed the amount of in-state tuition charged by the institution for thirty (30) semester hours of credit.

Special consideration will be given to grant proposals that:

- Are designed to create a partnership between two institutions of higher education, one of which does not have an approved teacher preparation program but has students who have

demonstrated academic excellence in one or more high-need content areas and have expressed an interest in entering the teaching profession;

- Are designed to create a partnership between an institution of higher education and one or more school districts or Board of Cooperative Services (BOCES) that have a shortage of teachers in high-need content areas;
- Are designed to meet the needs of rural or high-poverty schools, school districts, or BOCES;
- Require each scholarship recipient to commit to completing his or her student teaching in a rural or high-poverty school, school district, or BOCES;
- Are designed to support the interpersonal and academic needs of students to help ensure completion of the program; or
- Are designed to help high school students, especially high school students of color or low socio-economic status, view teaching as a viable career.

#### **Administration**

- Schools of Education will work with financial aid offices to identify and award students.
- Recipients must be eligible for in-state tuition as required by H. B. 06-1023.
- Students are eligible for up to 30 credit hours of in-state tuition (based on actual enrollment).
- The institution will work with DHE staff to establish a billing process. The institutions will submit rosters of identified students that include the number of credits to be paid. A payment schedule will be determined with each institution and will be quarterly, monthly, after census, or other.
- Awards are for one year and unexpended funds will be reverted back to the state at the end of the fiscal year.
- Institutions will report TEACH awards in SURDS

#### **IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

**Department staff recommend approval of the proposed guidelines.**

#### **V. SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION**

Copies of all relevant statute, policy, and S. B. 08-133 (2008) are on file in the Academic Affairs Office.

**VI. STATUTORY AUTHORITY**

23-3.3-901 C.R.S.