

Eligibility Requirements:

- Students who are enrolled or plan to enroll at an eligible institution in an undergraduate or graduate program;
- Students seeking to change careers to pursue a course of study or program in an academic discipline leading to a Maryland professional teacher's certificate;
- Students must agree to work as public school or public prekindergarten teachers in the State upon completion of their studies at elementary and secondary schools that have at least 50% of the students in the school eligible for free or reduced-price meals (FRPM);
- Be a Maryland resident or have graduated from a Maryland high school;
- Enroll full-time or part-time at an eligible institution pursuing a course of study or program leading to a Maryland professional teacher's certificate;
- Be currently enrolled in high school and have an overall GPA of 3.3 on a 4.0 scale or its equivalent after completion of the first semester of the senior year;
- Be currently enrolled as a full-time undergraduate student at an eligible institution and have a cumulative GPA of 3.3 on a 4.0 scale and have made satisfactory progress toward a degree in an academic discipline leading to a Maryland professional teacher's certificate;
- Achieved a score 500 on the reading and math portions of the SAT, with a combined score of at least 1100;
- Achieved a composite ACT score of 25; or
- Achieved a score of 50% on the GRE and have demonstrated an exceptional dedication to or aptitude for teaching.

An individual who has been employed as a teaching assistant at a public school or public prekindergarten program in Maryland for at least 2 years may apply and is eligible to hold the scholarship as a full-time or part-time undergraduate or graduate student.

The Office of Student Financial Assistance must be notified in writing of any address and/or telephone number changes.

Award Amount: The annual award will be amount prescribed by MHEC and may be used for education expenses defined by MHEC to pay for tuition and mandatory fees as well as room and board. **Awards are subject to the availability of funds.**

- At a Maryland public senior higher education institution, the scholarship award is equivalent to 100% of the annual tuition, mandatory fees, and room and board of a resident undergraduate student or graduate student, as appropriate.
- At a Maryland private nonprofit institution, the scholarship award is equal to the lesser of:
 - 100% of the annual tuition and mandatory fees of a resident undergraduate student or graduate student, as appropriate, at the University of Maryland College Park (UMPC) and 100% of the room and board of a resident undergraduate student or graduate student, as appropriate, at the institution;
or
 - 50% of the annual tuition and mandatory fees of a resident undergraduate or graduate student, as appropriate, at the institution and 100% of the room and board of a resident undergraduate student or graduate student, as appropriate, at the institution.

Note: A private nonprofit institution must provide a matching scholarship award in an amount equal to the State award provided for tuition & fees only. Private nonprofit institutions are not required to match State funds awarded for room and board.

The award will be cancelled if the recipient fails to meet and maintain each eligibility requirement. A recipient who is academically ineligible will forfeit the award, and must reapply as an initial applicant in a subsequent award year and meet and maintain each eligibility requirement. A student transferring from one institution to another may continue to receive the award as long as the student meets all of the scholarship eligibility requirements.

Payment to Your Institution:

At the beginning of each semester, your institution will be asked to certify that you meet the requirements of the award. When the institution completes the certification and returns it to OSFA, your award will be processed for payment. Payment to the institution will be made approximately four weeks after the institution completes the certification. Contact your institution's financial aid office if you have questions about the payment status of your award.

Drug Free Pledge: As a condition of receiving a Maryland State scholarship or grant, you pledge to remain drug free for the full term of the award. Unlawful use of drugs and alcohol may endanger your enrollment in a Maryland college, as well as your Maryland financial aid award.

Service Obligation Requirement:

- You must sign and return a promissory note agreeing to begin fulfillment of the service obligation to teach at a public school or public prekindergarten program that has at least 50% of its students eligible for FRPM for the periods specified below:
 - For a recipient who receives a scholarship as an undergraduate student, the service obligation is 1 year for each year that the recipient receives a scholarship.
 - For a student who receives a scholarship as a graduate student, the service obligation is 2 years for each year that the recipient receives a scholarship.
- The service obligation begins after completion of your degree program, and cannot be fulfilled prior to completion. If you do not complete your degree, you will be obligated to repay the scholarship with interest.
- If you hold this scholarship with any other award requiring a service obligation, you must perform your service in consecutive years.

If you fail to remain eligible for the award, you must still fulfill the obligation of the promissory note.