



## TEACH Grant ELEMENTARY School Teacher Information

All **Elementary Education and Early Childhood Education Majors** please review the following information regarding the requirements of the Agreement to Serve (ATS) for Elementary Teachers. This information is vital to preventing your TEACH Grant from converting into a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan.

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**MOST Elementary/Early Childhood Education majors will not be able to fulfill the Agreement to Serve (ATS) requirements due to the condition that a teacher must spend more than 51% of his or her time teaching in a high need field.**

➤ ***If I am planning to be an elementary teacher, how could I fulfill the requirements of the “Agreement to Serve” (ATS) for the TEACH Grant?***

You must meet the definition of a full-time teacher as defined by the state in which the school where your teaching service is being completed is located and spend the majority (at least 51 percent) of your time teaching one of the high-need subject areas. *Elementary school teachers who teach many subjects in most cases would not be able to fulfill their service agreement.*

Elementary school teachers, however, may be able to fulfill their service agreement through one of the following examples:

- A) An elementary school teacher who teaches the majority (at least 51%) of his or her courses in a high-need field such as math, science, or a foreign language at a designated low-income school.
- B) An elementary school teacher who teaches in a foreign language immersion program (the regular school curriculum is taught in the immersion language for at least half of the school day) at a designated low-income school.
- C) An elementary school teacher, while teaching at a designated low-income school, teaches full time as:
  - a reading specialist, or
  - a special education teacher, or
  - a bilingual education teacher (two languages are used to teach content matter instruction), or
  - teaches English language acquisition (acquiring English as a first or second language)
 as each of these areas appear on the current national high-need field list.
- D) An elementary school teacher who teaches in a low-income school in a state that has designated elementary education as a high-need field. Please view the U.S. Department of Education’s [“Annual Teacher Shortage Area Nationwide Listing”](#) to determine which states have declared elementary education as a high-need field. This list may be found by visiting: <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/pol/tsa.doc>.

As a reminder, in order for teaching to count towards meeting the service obligation, the recipient must teach as a ‘highly qualified teacher’ in a designated high-need field **AND** at a designated low-income school. These designations can change over time.

**\*\*\*Again MOST Elementary School Teachers will be unable to meet the requirements of the ATS\*\*\***

**It is highly recommended that you do not accept the TEACH Grant unless you fully understand what is required of you as an elementary school teacher in the ATS.** Students who are *unable to meet the requirements* of the ATS will have **all of their TEACH Grant funds converted to an Unsubsidized Federal Direct Loan**, with *accrued interest* from the time the TEACH Grant was initially disbursed.