



## **KANSAS TEACHER SERVICE SCHOLARSHIP**

This **service obligation scholarship program** provides financial assistance to students pursuing bachelor's or master's degree programs as well as currently licensed teachers pursuing new endorsements in hard-to-fill disciplines or master's degrees in hard-to-fill disciplines or either group planning to teach (K-12) in an underserved geographic area in Kansas. To complete the service obligation, recipients must complete one year of teaching for each year of scholarship funding received. Teaching service is not counted until the recipient has completed the degree program for which they received the scholarship.

The Kansas Teacher Service Scholarship was enacted to support the need for licensed and fully endorsed teachers in the hard-to-fill disciplines and underserved geographic areas in the State of Kansas.

**This scholarship is not a resource for Counseling, Administration, or Library/Media Specialist degrees. Eligible degrees must have a focus on developing classroom teaching skills.**

Applicants must be a resident of the State of Kansas, attending a Kansas higher educational institution, **AND**

- A.) Enrolled in a program leading to licensure as a teacher in an identified hard-to-fill discipline\* or underserved geographic area\*\* in Kansas; **OR**
- B.) Currently licensed as a teacher and enrolled in a program leading to a new endorsement in one of the hard-to-fill disciplines\* or teach in one of the underserved geographic areas\*\* in Kansas; **OR**
- C.) Currently licensed teachers enrolled in a program leading to a master's degree in an identified hard-to-fill discipline\* or underserved geographic area\*\*

**\*Identified Hard-to-fill disciplines for 2024-2025 are:** Elementary Education, English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Special Education.

**\*\*Underserved Geographic Areas are:** USD 501 Topeka; USD 500 Kansas City, KS; USD 259 Wichita, and Kansas State Board of Education Districts 5, 7, & 9 (<https://www.ksde.org/Board>).

### **APPLICANT INSTRUCTIONS:**

#### **NEW applicants must:**

- Submit the State of Kansas Student Aid Application online. **Priority Deadline is June 1**; however, applications will be accepted past that date if funding allows.
- Submit official college transcripts from all schools where you've completed coursework. †
- Submit at least one letter of recommendation on letterhead; academic or employment related.
- Submit a one-page personal statement essay regarding your academic and teaching goals, including your personal commitment to teaching in your hard-to-fill discipline or underserved area.
- If a current teacher, submit a copy of your teaching certificate or licensure.

† *High school transcripts are not accepted. If you have graduate school hours, include a transcript of your graduate work to date in addition to your undergraduate transcript(s).*

**All supporting materials should be uploaded through the application website ([sfa.kansasregents.org](https://sfa.kansasregents.org)) using the "Upload Documents" button at the top of the Scholarships screen.**

Alternatively, you may email your materials to [scholars@ksbor.org](mailto:scholars@ksbor.org).

**RENEWAL applicants** must complete the State of Kansas Student Aid Application each school year. Renewals do NOT submit new supporting materials annually. **The priority deadline is June 1.**



### **RECIPIENTS:**

Priority in awarding goes to junior and senior level undergraduate students seeking licensure as a teacher. Funds are rarely available for freshman or sophomore students. This is a merit-based scholarship and your cumulative college GPA factors largely into the awarding decision. The average GPA of past recipients has been 3.50. Recipients may be enrolled either full-time or part-time at a minimum of three credit hours per semester.

Recipients are eligible to receive funding for **up to ten semesters**, which may include a combination of both undergraduate and graduate work, and must continue to maintain satisfactory academic progress each year. The number of recipients awarded is dependent on state funding levels.

➤ **Renewal recipients** are those who received the scholarship the prior academic year. Renewal applicants must apply for the Kansas Teacher Service Scholarship each school year to receive funding; the scholarship does not automatically renew from year to year. Renewals are given top priority in awarding.

- If you are renewing the scholarship and will be transitioning from an undergraduate to graduate program, you are required to contact KBOR regarding your graduate degree. Additional materials may be required.

### **AWARD AMOUNTS:**

Recipients may be eligible for up to **\$6,504** per academic year (**\$3,252 per semester**). The funding amount is based on the number of credit hours taken per semester and is a set amount as follows:

|              |                        |
|--------------|------------------------|
| 12 + hours   | = \$3,252 per semester |
| 9 – 11 hours | = \$2,605 per semester |
| 6 – 8 hours  | = \$1,951 per semester |
| 3 – 5 hours  | = \$1,301 per semester |

### **SERVICE OBLIGATION REQUIREMENT:**

Kansas Teacher Service Scholarship recipients will sign **an agreement/promissory note with the State of Kansas** in which they will agree to:

- Complete the required course of instruction leading to licensure and full endorsement in a field of education as a teacher in the selected hard-to-fill teaching discipline or in an underserved geographic area in the State of Kansas (i.e., graduate from your education degree program);
- Obtain and maintain necessary licensure and endorsement as specified in the scholarship agreement;
- Engage in teaching in the hard-to-fill discipline or in an underserved geographic area in the State of Kansas within six months of licensure in a **state-accredited** public or private school (K-12) on a full-time basis for a period equal to the time scholarship was awarded or commence teaching on a part-time basis for a period that is equivalent to full-time, multiplied by the length of the course of instruction for which the scholarship was awarded.

**Please Note:** Fulfillment of your teaching obligation begins AFTER completion of your degree program, even if you do not receive the scholarship for the entire duration of your schooling. If a recipient is unable to fulfill the service obligation, either by failing to graduate from their degree program or by not teaching in the state of Kansas, they will be subject to repaying the amount of the scholarship they received plus accrued interest. The interest rate is the same as that of the federal PLUS program at the time the agreement was first entered into plus five percentage points (currently the interest rate is 13.05%).