

MEMORANDUM

TO: Alternative Route Program Applicants

FROM: Dr. Lin Douglas
Director of Alternative Route Programs

DATE: March 2005

RE: Conditional Loan Scholarships

A limited number of \$8,000 conditional loan scholarships will be available for 2005-2006 for alternative route program interns. The conditional scholarship is a loan that can be forgiven in exchange for teaching service in a designated shortage area. The state shall forgive one year of loan obligation for every two years a recipient teaches in a shortage area in a Washington public school. For individuals who obtain part-time teaching positions in a shortage area, this obligates you to teach the **EQUIVALENT OF TWO FULL-TIME YEARS**. Only teaching in a shortage area may be counted. Only teaching service **AFTER EARNING THE RESIDENCY CERTIFICATE** is eligible for loan forgiveness. Failure to meet the service obligations will result in your repaying the loan with interest and fees. You may qualify for a conditional loan scholarship if you meet the following criteria:

1. **Route 1 interns** – currently employed classified instructional employees with a transferable associate degree **seeing an endorsement in special education, bilingual education, or ESL, AND**
 - District validation of qualifications, including three years of successful student interaction and leadership as a classified instructional employee;
 - Successful passage of the PRAXIS II in your endorsement area(s);
 - Meeting the age, good moral character, and personal fitness requirements for teachers.
2. **Route 2 interns** – currently employed classified staff with a baccalaureate degree seeking an endorsement in **subject matter shortage areas (special education, mathematics, chemistry physics, biology, instructional music, early childhood special education, choral music English as a Second Language, bilingual education, and Japanese)** and/or areas with shortage due to geographic location as documented by partnership districts, AND
 - District validation of qualifications, including three years of successful student interaction and leadership as classified staff;
 - A baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited institution of higher education;
 - Successful passage of the PRAXIS II in your endorsement area(s);
 - Successful passage of the statewide basic skills exam (WEST-B); and
 - Meeting the age, moral character, and personal fitness requirements for teachers.

3. **Route 3 interns** – individuals with baccalaureate degrees, who are not employed in the district at the time of application. **Priority for admission, as well as conditional loan scholarships, shall be given to individuals who are seeking endorsements in subject matter shortage areas (areas listed in Route 2).** Districts may include additional candidates seeking endorsements in nonshortage areas if the candidates are seeking endorsements with a secondary grade level designation. The districts shall disclose to candidates in nonshortage subject areas available information on the demand in those subject areas. Please recall that failure to obtain employment in an eligible position within six months after completion of the residency certificate program will require repayment of the conditional loan scholarship, with interest. Additional requirements for Route 3 include:
 - Five years' career work experience;
 - A baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited institution of higher education;
 - External validation of qualifications, including demonstrated successful experience with students or children, such as references, (reference) letters, and letters of support from previous employers;
 - Successful passage of the PRAXIS II in your endorsement area(s);
 - Successful passage of the statewide basic skills exam (WEST-B); and
 - Meeting the age, good moral character, and personal fitness requirements for teachers.
4. **Route 4 interns** – individuals teaching with conditional certificates in identified shortage areas or individuals with emergency substitute certificates who meet the eligibility criteria defined for Route 3. Five years career related experience is not required.

Again, let me emphasize that loan forgiveness is based upon your securing employment as a teacher in a Washington public school in a shortage area or secondary subject area. Employment as an elementary education, early childhood education, and elementary specialist (art, music, PE, etc.) teacher will not qualify for forgiveness. Teaching in a private school will not qualify for forgiveness.

The Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB) administers the conditional loan. It is responsible for issuing checks to students and for assigning loan forgiveness in exchange for teaching service. The HECB is also responsible for collecting loan repayments from individuals who fail to meet the loan forgiveness requirements. Applications (promissory notes) may be obtained from your alternative route program coordinator once you have been fully admitted and are participating in the program.

PLEASE ATTACH THIS FROM TO YOUR APPLICATION

NAME: _____

I have read the attached letter and understand the eligibility requirements and conditions for which the conditional loan scholarship shall be forgiven.

I am submitting my application for consideration for admission to a:

___ **Route 1 program seeking residency certification with an endorsement in**

- ___ special education
- ___ bilingual education
- ___ English as a Second Language (ESL)

___ **Route 2 program seeking residency certification with an endorsement in**

- ___ special education
- ___ mathematics
- ___ chemistry
- ___ physics
- ___ biology
- ___ instrumental music
- ___ choral music
- ___ early childhood special education
- ___ bilingual education
- ___ ESL
- ___ Japanese
- ___ middle level math/science

___ **Route 3 program seeking residency certification with an endorsement in**

- ___ special education
- ___ mathematics
- ___ chemistry
- ___ physics
- ___ biology
- ___ instrumental music
- ___ choral music
- ___ early childhood special education
- ___ bilingual education
- ___ ESL
- ___ Japanese
- ___ middle level math/science
- ___ secondary grade level designation endorsement in: _____

___ **Route 4 program seeking residency certification in _____.**

___ I passed the WEST-B (attach verification).

___ I passed the PRAXIS II test in _____

(Signature)

(Date)

