

# TROOPS TO TEACHERS - Program Changes

- Registration Eligibility – Any individual currently serving or has separated with an honorable discharge may register for counseling and referral services from Troops to Teachers (TTT).
- TTT participants must be registered with TTT before being hired as a full time teacher as one consideration in qualifying for the TTT bonus.
- The Troops to Teachers Program was transferred from the Department of Education to the Department of Defense. We now operate under the NDAA PL 112-239 SEC 541 which passed on 2 January 2013, and there is the possibility that changes may be made yearly.
- The categories for financial eligibility have had some slight changes. For individuals who separated on or after 8 January 2002 with four years of continuous active duty and then enters the Selected Reserve or are current members of the Selected Reserve with six or more good years and commit to serving an additional three years in the Selected Reserve could qualify for financial assistance. This is a change whereas in the past they needed six years of active duty or had ten good years in the Selected Reserve. The other categories remain the same.
- Individuals who qualify for post 911 GI Bill benefits cannot qualify for the TTT stipend of up to \$5K for certification expenses unless those benefits have been expended, other GI Bill versions do not affect the stipend.
- The bonus is broken up into two categories for individuals who are hired to teach in an “Eligible” or “High-Need” school. A participant teaching in an “Eligible School” may receive a bonus of up to \$5K, while a participant teaching in a “High-Need” school may receive a bonus of up to \$10K. The most a participant may receive is capped at \$10K. JROTC participant’s may receive a bonus of no more than \$5K regardless if teaching in an “Eligible” or “High- Need” school. TTT pays the bonus in three equal payments, one year at a time. Once the participant completes the school year in which a bonus payment is made, the obligation for that year is complete. Individuals receiving the bonus incur a three year teaching obligation.
- If a participant is hired to teach in a public school that was not a bonus school, but is later determined to have become a bonus eligible school will not qualify for the bonus.
- If a participant is teaching in a non-bonus school then moves to a “Eligible “ or “High Need” school they may qualify for the bonus.
- An Eligible school is one where the Free/Reduced Cost Lunch percentage is 30% or more, or the school has an IDEA percentage of 13% or more, or is a Bureau of Indian Affairs funded school.
- High Need schools are ones where the Free/Reduced Cost Lunch percentage are 50% or more for public middle or elementary schools, 40% or more for public high schools, or eligible under 6211(b) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, which covers rural schools.
- Critical Subjects are considered to be Mathematics, Science, Special Education and Foreign Languages.
- There are ten bonus categories used to prioritize payments based on subject area, recent or former registration, and JROTC that are paid monthly, quarterly or at the end of the fiscal year.