

**Minnesota Office of Higher Education****Proposed Permanent Rules Relating to Teacher Shortage Loan Forgiveness Program****4830.9100 TEACHER SHORTAGE LOAN FORGIVENESS PROGRAM; SCOPE.**

Parts 4830.9110 to 4830.9130 govern the teacher shortage loan forgiveness program.

**4830.9110 DEFINITIONS.**

Subpart 1. **Scope.** For the purposes of parts 4830.9120 and 4830.9130, the terms defined in this part or in Minnesota Statutes, section 136A.1791, have the meanings given them.

Subp. 2. **Employed.** "Employed" means an individual currently providing classroom instruction.

Subp. 3. **Qualified educational loan.** "Qualified educational loan" means a loan, as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 136A.1791, subdivision 1, that is not one of the following:

A. PLUS loans made under the Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) program or Federal Direct Loan programs to parents of dependent undergraduate students;

B. Federal Consolidation Loans or Federal Direct Consolidation Loans that repaid a parent PLUS loan; or

C. federal, state, commercial, or foundation loans that are in default.

Subp. 4. **Teacher shortage area.** "Teacher shortage area" means a licensure field, economic development region, or other shortage area identified by the Minnesota Department of Education. The commissioner of education shall provide an annual notice to the office identifying teacher shortage areas using the data collected for the report required under Minnesota Statutes, section 127A.05, subdivision 6.

**4830.9120 ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS.**

To be an eligible participant, an individual must:

A. hold a teaching license issued by the licensing division in the Minnesota Department of Education on behalf of the Board of Teaching;

B. be employed by a school district, as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 136A.1791, subdivision 1, paragraph (c), to provide classroom instruction in a teacher shortage area;

C. not have received five annual awards from this program;

D. provide a completed application;

E. have outstanding qualified educational loan debt;

F. not submit false or misleading information on any application to this program; and

G. provide verification of the application of previously awarded funds toward eligible qualified educational loans, if the applicant has previously received an award.

#### **4830.9130 APPLICATION AND DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS.**

Subpart 1. **Completed application.** A completed application must include the following:

A. a completed application form;

B. an employment verification form completed by a school district representative;

C. verification of the applicant's qualified educational loans; and

D. verification of the applicant's income and household size.

Subp. 2. **Award amount.** The amount of an eligible participant's annual award shall not exceed \$1,000 or the cumulative balance of the applicant's qualified educational loans, including principal and interest, whichever amount is less.

Subp. 3. **Funds availability.** If there are insufficient funds to provide an award to all eligible participants, the commissioner shall not prorate each award. The commissioner shall prioritize the awards to eligible participants based on:

A. the financial need of an applicant, considering the applicant's income, household size, and total qualified educational loan;

B. previous awards to the applicant from the teacher shortage loan forgiveness program;

C. whether the applicant is employed in an economic development region that is a teacher shortage area;

D. whether the applicant is employed in a teacher shortage area within the applicant's economic development region;

E. whether the applicant is employed in a statewide teacher shortage area; and

F. the statewide distribution of funds.