

Troops to Teachers

Assisting eligible military personnel to transition to a new career as public school teachers in schools serving students from low-income families.

The Department of Education establishes the operating rules that govern the schools where Troops to Teachers participants who accept financial assistance may fulfill their three-year teaching obligation. There are revised rules which determine these eligible schools. These revised rules will take effect for anyone registering in the Troops to Teachers program on or after the implementation date of September 15, 2005.

Eligibility for Counseling and Referral Services

Counseling and referral services include the following:

- Access to our State Offices for counseling relative to becoming a certified teacher
- Participation in the job referral process via the Internet
- Use of the MENTOR Connection to contact TTT participants who are teaching for hints about transitioning to teaching as a second career

Those eligible for elementary and secondary teacher referral services must meet the following criteria:

- A. Service Requirements: Active or Selected Reserve component personnel who: 1) retired, 2) separated with four or more years of creditable service towards retirement on or after October 1, 1990, or 3) separated with a service-determined physical disability on or after January 8, 2002 and registered within four years after separation, or 4) current members with six or more years of creditable service towards retirement. The last period of service must be honorable. Those selected to participate in the Program before retirement, separation, or release from active duty may continue to participate only if the last period of service is characterized as honorable.
- B. Educational Requirements: Must hold a Baccalaureate or advanced degree from an accredited institution at the time of registration and in a teacher certification program or licensed as a teacher for referral in that subject – **or** – have the equivalent of one year of college with six years of work experience in a vocational or technical field or meet state requirements for vocational/technical teacher referral.

Eligibility for Financial Assistance

In addition to the Education Requirements noted above and pending availability of funds, financial assistance may be provided to qualified service members in the form of either (A) a stipend of up to \$5K for teacher certification expenses for which individuals must teach for three years at a public school within a “high-need” school district; or (B) a bonus of \$10K to teach for three years in a public school within a “high-need” school district in which the school also serves a high percentage of disadvantaged students. To qualify, a service member must meet one of the requirements listed below.

Active Duty

AD-1. Retired from active duty.

AD-2. Active duty member with approved date of retirement with one year or less remaining before retirement.

AD-3. Separated for a service-determined physical disability on or after January 8, 2002. Must register within four years after separation. *Note: Physical disability must be noted on service separation documentation not a VA determination. Medical discharge is not the same as discharge due to physical disability.*

Reserve Component

RC-1. Retired from the Selected Reserve.

RC-2. Currently serving in the Selected Reserve with 10 or more years of creditable service towards retirement and commit to serving an additional three years, or until eligible for retirement.

RC-3. Separated from the Selected Reserve due to a service-determined physical disability on or after January 8, 2002. Must register within four years after separation. *Note: Physical disability must be noted on service separation documentation not a VA determination. Medical discharge is not the same as discharge due to physical disability.*

RC-4. Individuals transitioning from active duty on or after January 8, 2002, and have served six years on active duty immediately before separation, and commit to three years with a Selected Reserve unit. Must register within four years after separation.