



COLORADO
Department of
Higher Education

Temporary Educator Loan Forgiveness Program



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What is the Temporary Loan Forgiveness Program?



During the 2022 legislative session, the General Assembly passed Senate Bill 22-1220 to address Colorado's educator shortages by helping remove barriers to educator preparation.

The law authorizes the Colorado Department of Higher Education to offer loan repayment assistance on qualified loans for licensed K-12 Colorado educators and counselors, mainly for those early in their careers who serve in rural and hard-to-fill positions in Colorado.

Those who qualify can receive up to \$5,000 in loan forgiveness for a given year. The program is funded for two years. Individuals who continue to qualify may apply every year of the program for up to \$5,000 in loan forgiveness annually.

CURRENT PROGRAM

The Application is now open.

With limited funds, not every applicant will receive loan forgiveness.

Apply and link your loans through the tuition.io portal.

TIMELINE

Application Now Open
[Apply here.](#)

Information will be updated on the [program website](#) as it becomes available.



WHO CAN APPLY?

Program Qualifications:

- Must be a Colorado state [licensed](#) educator or counselor currently employed in a K-12 Colorado school
 - Must work in an [approved](#) rural school/district (or) work in a [content-shortage area](#) in a non-rural school/district
 - Priority will be given to individuals who were licensed in 2019-2020, 2020-2021, and 2021-2022
 - Must have federal student loans in your name.
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Educator Loan Forgiveness FAQ

GENERAL QUESTIONS

What types of educators qualify for this program?

What is the minimum number of years applicants must have taught in CO to qualify?

How do I apply?

What is the deadline to apply for this program?

When will I be notified if I have received the award or not? If awarded, when will I receive it?

How will the funds be distributed?

Who gets priority for this program?

Who is tuition.io?

LOANS

What types of loans qualify for this program? Do the loans have to be from certain years?

My total qualifying loans are about \$6,000, just a little above the \$5,000 award. My colleague owes \$4,000 total. Do we both qualify?

What if my loan(s) are currently in default and/or garnishment? Am I still eligible for this program? I refinanced my loans under a private lender, do they still count as eligible loans?

How much money can I get through the Temporary Educator Loan Forgiveness Program?

Can I be awarded money from this program and another Loan Forgiveness program through the state in the same year?

Is this Loan Forgiveness money considered taxable income?



WHAT IF?

What if I didn't complete my studies in Colorado, would I still qualify if I currently work in Colorado?

What if I graduated from a Colorado educator preparation program, but am contracted now to teach in a different state, am I eligible for this program?

What if I receive the loan forgiveness award this year, am I eligible to keep receiving it in future years? Do I have to re-apply next year?

What if I don't receive loan forgiveness this year, can I apply for next year?

What if I am studying to be a K-12 educator now? Am I eligible to receive this Ed Loan Forgiveness award?

What if I only work part-time? Do I qualify for this program?

What if I received previous loan forgiveness under another Colorado or federal program? Am I eligible to receive an award under this program?

What if I am participating in a Federal Loan Forgiveness Program that requires monthly qualifying payments? Can I still participate in this program?

FAQ

General Questions

- **What types of educators qualify for this program?**
A teacher or school counselor.
- **What is the minimum number of years applicants must have taught in CO to qualify?**
Students must enter the workforce on or after the 2019-20 state fiscal year and contract for a qualified position no later than the end of the 2021-22 state fiscal year.
- **How do I apply?**
Applications can be submitted at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/EdLoanForgive>



- **What is the deadline to apply for this program?**
There is no deadline at this time.
- **When will I be notified if I have received the award or not? If awarded, when will I receive it?**
Applications will be reviewed periodically as they are received.
- **How will the funds be distributed?**
If you are selected for this award, your award will be issued in 12 monthly disbursements.

This is ideal for people also participating in federally funded loan forgiveness programs, which require a specific number of qualifying monthly payments.

There will be a mid-year evaluation to be sure awardees still meet qualifications.

- **Who gets priority for this program?**
Priority will be given to qualified applicants who were licensed in 2019-2020, 2020-2021, and 2021-2022.



General Questions Continued

▪ **Who is tuition.io?**

tuition.io is a vendor contracted with Colorado Department of Higher Education that will administer student loan contributions on behalf of the Colorado Department of Higher Education. By logging on to the tuition.io website, you can link your student loans so awarded funds can be paid directly to the lender(s).

Loans

▪ **What types of loans qualify for this program?**

Educational loans eligible for repayment:

- Federal and/or private commercial loans that were taken out for education and expenses directly related to the discipline in which you're currently practicing.

Educational loans NOT eligible for loan repayment:

- Loans that were consolidated with any other type of debt or another person's debt.
- Parent PLUS Loans.
- Loans from a friend or family member.

▪ **Do the loans have to be from certain years?**

Qualifying loans are educational loans incurred while completing an educator preparation program, or a bachelor's or master's degree. They can be incurred from any particular year(s).

▪ **My total qualifying loans are about \$6,000, just a little above the \$5,000 award. My colleague owes \$4,000 total. Do we both qualify?**

Yes. The loan forgiveness program can pay up to \$5,000 towards a loan where more or less than \$5,000 is owed.

▪ **What if my loan(s) are currently in default and/or garnishment? Am I still eligible for this program?**

Yes.

Loans Continued

- **I refinanced my loans under a private lender, do they still count as eligible loans?**
No.
- **How much money can I get through the Temporary Educator Loan Forgiveness Program?**
Qualified educators may receive up to \$5,000/year. The program is funded for two years. For example, you may be eligible for loan forgiveness of up to \$10,000 over the next two years.
- **Can I be awarded money from this program and another loan forgiveness program through the state in the same year? Yes, however you may not be awarded money from two different Colorado-run loan forgiveness programs in the same month.**
- **Is this Loan Forgiveness money considered taxable income?**
No. The awards are not considered taxable income.

What If?

- **What if I didn't complete my studies in Colorado, would I still qualify if I currently work in Colorado?**
Yes. You do not have to have completed your studies in the state of Colorado to qualify for this program.
- **What if I graduated from a Colorado educator preparation program, but am contracted now to teach in a different state, am I eligible for this program?**
No. Only applicants living and working in Colorado are eligible to receive a loan forgiveness award under this program.
- **What if I receive the \$5,000 loan forgiveness award this year, am I eligible to keep receiving it in future years? Do I have to reapply next year?**
Yes, you are eligible to receive up to two years of loan forgiveness awards of \$5,000/yr through this program, but you must submit a new application for consideration each academic year. Having received an award from this program in one year does not guarantee you will receive the award again in the subsequent years you apply.
- **What if I don't receive loan forgiveness this cycle, can I apply for a future cycle?**
Yes. If you are not selected as an awardee this cycle, you are encouraged to apply for the next cycle of funding.
- **What if I am doing an alternative educator preparation program now? Am I eligible to receive this Loan Forgiveness award?**
No. You must currently hold a valid educator license in the state of Colorado to qualify for this program.
- **What if I only work part-time? Do I qualify for this program?**
Yes.
- **What if I received previous loan forgiveness under another Colorado or federal program? Am I eligible to receive an award under this program?**
Yes. If you have received other Colorado-sponsored or federal loan forgiveness awards in previous years, you are still eligible to apply for this program.
- **What if I am actively a part of another loan forgiveness program that requires paying monthly qualifying payments? Will this award pay out monthly if I need it to?**
Yes, you may participate in this program if you are already participating in a federal loan forgiveness program that requires qualifying monthly payments. Awards from this program will be distributed monthly. If the monthly award does not cover the minimum monthly payment to your lender, the awardee is responsible for the difference.



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CONTACT US

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<https://cdhe.colorado.gov/colorado-educator-loan-forgiveness>

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