



JACKSON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Teacher Assistants to Teachers Tuition Reimbursement Program

Jackson County Public Schools may select up to five teacher assistants to receive an award up to \$4,600 per academic year, for up to a period of four years, from the start of the teacher assistant's first semester after acceptance into the program, towards the cost of tuition and fees to pursue licensure as a teacher by attending an Educator Preparation Program (EPP) at an institution of higher education in North Carolina.

Requirements:

- Must hold at least an Associate's degree (or equivalent) but not a Bachelor's degree.
- Tuition assistance awards under the program may be provided for part-time or full-time coursework toward a college degree that will result in teacher licensure.
- The teacher assistant shall be employed as a teacher assistant by Jackson County Public Schools and remain employed for each year of the award.
- Tuition award recipients must repay Jackson County Public Schools the full amount of the tuition award received if he/she voluntarily leaves the school district less than 24 months after receiving their last tuition award.
- The teacher assistant must be rated as "Meets" or "Exceeds" on the employee evaluation for each standard on the most recent year's evaluation.
- The teacher assistant shall be a resident of North Carolina. For purposes of this subdivision, residency shall be determined by the same standard as residency for tuition purposes pursuant to [G.S. 116-143.1](#).
- To be eligible to receive program funding, teacher assistant must be enrolled in an accredited institution of higher education in North Carolina with an Educator Preparation Program (EPP) [approved by the State Board of Education](#) to pursue teacher licensure in one of the following areas: Special Education, Elementary Ed., or Middle or High School Math or Science. Consideration may be given to other areas based upon district need.
- Teacher Assistant must maintain at least a 3.0 grade point average and maintain satisfactory progress of at least six semester hours annually toward completion of the Education Preparation Program (EPP).
- The teacher assistant shall remain in good standing at the college or university.
- After acceptance, the teacher assistant shall be enrolled or provide a statement of intent to enroll in an accredited institution of higher education in North Carolina with an educator preparation program approved by the State Board of Education to pursue teacher licensure no later than one calendar year after acceptance into the TA to Teacher Tuition Reimbursement Pilot Program.
- An application & interview is required to determine eligibility.

Reference Session Law & Budget Bill:

- [SESSION LAW 2016-94](#) (see pages 30-32)
- [SESSION LAW 2017-57](#) (see pages 34-35)
- [SESSION LAW 2018-5](#) (see pages 28 - 30)
- [Budget Bill 257](#)

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