

Wyoming Community College Commission

2020 Carey Avenue, 8th Floor, Cheyenne WY 82002

Commissioners

Ms. Charlene Bodine, Sheridan
 Ms. Lois Distad, Casper
 Mr. Jack Russell, Cody
 Ms. Ann Chambers Noble, Cora
 Mr. Larry Atwell, Cheyenne
 Mr. Steve Skordas, Rawlins
 Ms. Wendy Sweeny, Worland



Exofficio
 Governor Dave Freudenthal
 State Superintendent Dr. Jim McBride
 Executive Director
 Dr. James O. Rose

Phone: 307-777-7763
 Fax: 307-777-6567
 www.communitycolleges.wy.edu

To: Governor Dave Freudenthal, Wyoming State Legislature
From: Amy Brockel
Date: 10/07/09
Re: Teacher Shortage Loan Repayment Program (TSLRP)
 Annual Report as per Wyoming Statute 21-7-601(n)

OVERVIEW:

Wyoming statute 21-7-601 created the Wyoming Teacher Shortage Loan Repayment Program (TSLRP) in order to address the state's current and future shortage of qualified teachers in the areas of mathematics, science, special education, foreign language as well as those seeking additional endorsement to teach Reading and English as a second language. The last two endorsements were added by the Wyoming State Legislature in the 2009 legislative session based on the recommendations of the Professional Teachers Standards Board. Through the TSLRP program, Wyoming residents or graduates of Wyoming high schools who meet the following requirements may be eligible to receive a TSLRP loan to help pay the unmet financial need of attendance in that program:

- Enrolled, in good standing, as at least a junior at the University of Wyoming,
- Majoring in a teacher education program or seeking an endorsement leading to certification as a special education, foreign language, mathematics, science, reading or English as a second language teacher and; loans are repaid by working as a certified teacher in Wyoming in one of the six specified areas.

SUMMARY: The program's first year of operation was from July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006. The tables below report only on the fourth year of operation from July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009.

GROUP 3		
Reporting for 2008-2009 Academic Year		
Biennial Legislative Appropriation: \$400,000		
(\$380,000 for student loans & \$20,000 for loan servicing fees)		
\$200,000 per academic year		
Number of Students	Average Award	Total Awarded
21 (2nd year students who started Fall 07 & graduated in Spring 09)	\$3,857	\$81,000

GROUP 4		
Reporting for 2008-2009 Academic Year		
Biennial Legislative Appropriation: \$400,000		
(\$380,000 for student loans & \$20,000 for loan servicing fees)		
\$200,000 per academic year		
Number of Students	Average Award	Total Awarded
20 (1st year students, started Fall 08 & most graduate in Spring 10)	\$4,795	\$95,900

TSLRP Students' Area of Study (includes all students June 2005-July 2009)				
	Math	Science	Special Education	Foreign Language
Group 1	12	5	15	NA
Group 2	5	7	12	NA
Group 3	9	7	7	1
Group 4	4	7	4	4
Total	30	26	38	5

*The Foreign Language area of study was added by the 2007 legislature. The students enrolled in the Foreign Language area of study began in the Spring of 2007 and the Reading & English as a second language additional endorsements were approved by the 2009 Legislature and those students began Summer 2009.

TSLRP OUTCOMES:

The students receiving TSLRP loans have a minimum of one and maximum of three years of study before graduation. Therefore, the program's first full group to graduate was in the spring semester of 2007. The 6/30/09 report from Western States Learning Corporation, the contracted loan servicing agency, reflects the status of groups 1, 2, 3 & 4. The TSLRP program operates under a sunset provision which occurs on June 30, 2011.

TSLRP STUDENT OUTCOMES (Western States Learning Corporation, summary report, 6/30/09)	Number Of Students	Percentage Of Students
Paid in Full by Working	18	18
Currently Employed in Wyoming to Repay the Loan	24	24
Graduated and Obtaining Certification	14	14
Dropped program and are Repaying (repaid) Loan Directly	15	15
Deferred	1	1
Defaulted	1	1
Still enrolled at UW	26	26
Total teaching students assisted by TSLRP program	99	100%

Report Provided by Professional Teachers Standards Board:

The UW College of Education is seeing an increase in enrollments in initial certification areas defined in the Teacher Shortage Loan Repayment Program; with particular growth in special education. The TSLRP can benefit those who plan to stay and teach in Wyoming. Additionally, this is the first year that the TSLRP has included endorsements in English as a Second Language and in Reading. As this opportunity becomes more widely known, we should see a growth in applications for the TSLRP from practicing Wyoming teachers.

The Professional Teachings Standards Board issues Exception Authorizations (EA) to those individuals who have extensive training or experience in a particular discipline when a certified teacher is not available. Based on the number of EA's issued in 2008-2009 school year, it appears the decrease in the number of EA's in areas defined by the program may have been positively impacted due to the TSLRP legislation.

There are a number of teaching positions, 227 in total, that were filled by teachers during the 2008-2009 school year, who are not fully certified in both core and non-core content areas. This number is down from 261 during the 2007-2008 school year. Teachers may have up to a total of three Exception Authorizations (up to a total of three years to obtain full certification). Many of the EA's issued are to teachers employed in local school districts who need to obtain a second or third endorsement due to the district's need to assign this teacher to a course outside their endorsement area. This is most often seen in small districts. That being said the PSTB makes the following recommendations to the Teacher Shortage Loan Repayment Program:

1. Continue the TSLRP for students majoring in or seeking endorsements in the areas of Foreign (World) languages, Special Education, Math, Science, Reading and English as a second language.
2. Continue to support currently certified teachers in Wyoming, employed by local school districts, to add additional endorsements to their initial certification in areas of Foreign (World) Languages, Special Education, Math, Science, Reading and English as a second language.
3. Library Media positions continue to be an area of high need; non-certified personnel are hired to fill vacancies due to the shortage of certified personnel. It is recommended that some incentive be considered for individuals who complete degrees in Library Media and become employed in Wyoming school districts. School districts are required to have at least one fully certified Library Media specialist in their district for accreditation.

Report and recommendations prepared by Dr. Connie Pollard, Professional Teaching Standards Board