

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: 10/13/10
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;
- Willingness to repay the loans 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, 2009 through June 30, 2010.

GROUP 4		
Reporting for 2009-2010 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
11 (2nd year students who started Fall 08 & graduated in Spring 10)	\$5,428	\$59,714

GROUP 5		
Reporting for 2009-2010 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
25 (1st year students, started Fall 09 & most plan to graduate in Spring 10)	\$4,805	\$120,141

TSLRP Students' Area of Study (includes all students June 2005-July 2009)						
	Math	Science	Special Education	Foreign Language	Reading	ESL
Group 1	12	5	15	NA	NA	NA
Group 2	5	7	12	NA	NA	NA
Group 3	9	7	7	1	NA	NA
Group 4	5	7	4	5	NA	NA
Group 5	6	6	6	4	2	1
Total	37	32	44	10	2	1

*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 second language area of study began in summer 2009. Teachers seeking an additional endorsement in Reading & English as a Second Language were both added by the 2009 legislature and those students began in Spring 2010.

Source: Western States Learning Corporation, summary report, 6/30/10

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 6/30/10 report from Western States Learning Corporation, the contracted loan servicing agency, reflects the status of groups 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5. The TSLRP program operates under a sunset provision which occurs on June 30, 2011.

TSLRP STUDENT OUTCOMES		
Paid in Full by Working	33	26%
Currently Employed in Wyoming to Repay the Loan	15	12%
Graduated and Obtaining Certification	23	18%
Dropped program and are Repaying Loan Directly	26	21%
Defaulted	1	1%
Still enrolled at the University of Wyoming	28	22%
Total teaching students assisted by TSLRP program	126	100%

Report Provided by Professional Teachers Standards Board:

The attached tables show the number of teaching positions that were filled by teachers during the 09-10 school year, who are not fully certified in both core and non-core content areas. PTSB saw an increase in the number of endorsements in English as a Second Language (4) and Reading (3) since including these 2 endorsements. PTSB issues Exception Authorizations (EA) to those individuals who have extensive training or experience in a particular discipline when a certified teacher is not available for hire. Based on the number of EA's issued in 2009-2010 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 that were filled during the 2009-2010 school year, who are fully certified in both core and non-core content areas. This number is down from the 2008-2009 school year. Teachers may have up to a total of three EA's (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 areas. PTSB makes the following recommendations to the Teacher Shortage Loan Repayment Program:

1. Continue the TSLRP for students seeking endorsements in the areas of Foreign (World) Languages, Special Education, Math, Science, Reading, and ESL.
2. Continue to support currently certified teachers in Wyoming, employed by local school districts, to add additional endorsements to their initial certification in the areas of Foreign (World) Languages, Special Education, Math, Science, ESL, and Reading.
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 again 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.

The UW College of Education is seeing a slight decline in enrollments in initial certification areas defined in the TSLRP.

TSLRP data from the University of Wyoming:

Completers 2006-2007

Math – 4

Foreign Language – 0 (not included under TSLRP until 2007)

Science – 4

Special Education -9

Completers 2007-2008

Math – 4

Foreign Language – 0

Science – 8

Special Education -6

Completers 2008-2009

Math – 2

Foreign Language – 1

Science – 4

Special Education -2

Completers 2009-2010

Math – 1

Foreign Language – 1

Science – 0

Special Education -2

Continuing 2010-2011

Math – 3

Foreign Language – 1

Science – 3

Special Education – 3

New Students Awarded 2011-2012

Math – 4

Foreign Language – 3

Science – 6

Special Education – 6

English as a Second Language (ESL) Endorsement- 1

Reading Endorsement- 1