

## Change to Minority Teaching Fellows Program - TSAC

### Minority Teaching Fellows Program (MTFP) / TCA 49-4-706

- To encourage talented minority Tennesseans to enter the teaching field. The award is \$5,000 per year for students who pursue a teacher certification at an eligible Tennessee institution.
- To be eligible, the applicant must be:
  - a minority Tennessee resident and a U.S. citizen, and
  - a high school senior or a continuing college student, and
  - a high school senior with at least a 2.75 GPA and a minimum 18 on the ACT (860 SAT) or be in the top 25% of their high school graduation class, or
  - a continuing college student with at least a 2.5 cumulative GPA.
- Awardees incur an obligation to teach in a K-12 Tennessee public school one year for each year the award is received. Recipients not meeting this obligation must repay the award.
- TCA sets a maximum number of awards per year at 116 (29 per cohort), at \$5,000/ award.

<u>Academic Year</u>	<u>Awards</u>	<u>Amount</u>
2005-2006	113	\$518,904
2006-2007	112	\$530,227
2007-2008	105	\$476,196
2008-2009	115	\$538,516

### Tennessee Teaching Scholars Program (TTSP)/ TCA 49-4-212

- To encourage exemplary students to enter the teaching field in Tennessee. The award is \$4,500 and participation is limited to college juniors, seniors, and graduate students admitted to a teacher education program in a Tennessee college or university.
- To be eligible, the applicant must:
  - be a Tennessee resident and a U.S. citizen, and
  - have at least a 2.75 cumulative GPA, and
  - be enrolled full-time if undergraduate or at least half-time if a graduate student, and
  - not be a licensed teacher or receive the scholarship while employed as a teacher.
- Awardees incur an obligation to teach in a K-12 Tennessee public school for each year an award is received. Recipients not meeting this obligation must repay the award.

	<u>MTFP</u>	<u>TTSP</u>
Average debt of students not fulfilling requirements*	\$16,278	\$5,383
Success rate of program since inception**	43%	75%

\* Includes students currently in each program in a deferment, repayment, or grace status.

\*\* Success rate means percentage of students who are currently teaching or have completed the service requirement of teaching.

### **Recommendation**

To increase the success rate and fully utilize the maximum number of awards available, TSAC staff recommends that MTFP be expanded to minority students enrolled in graduate programs leading to teacher licensure. This will require a statutory change (T.C.A 49-4-706) through the Tennessee General Assembly.