MEMORANDUM

TO: City and County Superintendents of Education

FROM: Eric G. Mackey
State Superintendent of Education

SUBJECT: Federal Loan Repayment Program for Selected Mathematics or Science Public School Teachers

October 31, 2018

I am pleased to share with you the attached document prepared by staff at the Alabama Commission on Higher Education (ACHE). As indicated on the document, new teachers who have earned a Class B Professional Educator Certificate after completing a state-approved undergraduate program at an Alabama college or university and new teachers who have earned a Class A Professional Educator Certificate after completing a state-approved Alternative Class A (master’s degree level) program at an Alabama college or university, and who have acquired a federal loan in order to do so, may qualify for significant repayment awards for that federal loan.

I encourage you to use funding from the Alabama Math and Science Teacher Education Program (AMSTEP) as both a recruitment and a retention tool.

If you employed for this school year a new mathematics or science teacher who completed his/her Class B or Alternative Class A state-approved program in mathematics or an area of science at the end of spring semester 2018, or thereafter, that new teacher should be advised about this opportunity so that he/she is aware of the need to monitor https://amstep.ache.edu and to complete the application as soon as it is available. Eligible areas of science include general science, biology, chemistry, and physics.

Please contact Ms. Cheryl Newton at the address, email address, or telephone number provided on the attachment if you have any questions about the AMSTEP. If you need information about how one of these new teachers earned an Alabama Professional Educator Certificate endorsed for mathematics or science, please do not hesitate to contact the member of our Educator Certification staff who is assigned to your school system.

EGM/JAM/SG

Attachment

cc: Dr. Jim Purcell Ms. Cheryl Newton Deans of Education Mr. Andy Craig Dr. Jayne A. Meyer Mrs. Shavon H. Cummings

Dr. Daniel Boyd

FY19-2014
ATTENTION: FEDERAL LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM FOR QUALIFYING MATH
OR SCIENCE PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS
https://amstep.ache.edu/

The Alabama Commission on Higher Education (ACHE) and the Alabama State Board
of Education (ALSBE) are pleased to announce the implementation of the Alabama
Math and Science Teacher Education Program (AMSTEP).

Recognizing the shortage of public high school math and science teachers across the
state, the 2018 Alabama Legislature passed into law this federal loan repayment
program. AMSTEP has a two-fold mission: to encourage individuals to enroll in and
complete programs leading to Alabama certification in mathematics or science; and to
improve the educational system in Alabama by encouraging those who complete the
program to accept math or science teaching positions in Alabama public schools,
preferably in public school systems where the shortage of math or science teachers, or
both, is most acute.

AMSTEP is being administered by ACHE. It is available specifically to teachers who
graduated Spring Term 2018 and forward from that date.

There are two components of the program:

(1) Base Program: Two thousand five hundred dollars ($2,500) per semester
worked, or $5,000 per year.

(2) Supplemental Program: In order to receive a supplement pursuant to this act, a
recipient shall also teach math or science, or both, in a geographic area within the state
with an acute teacher shortage in math or science, or both. The supplement is an
additional two thousand five hundred dollars ($2,500) per year, or one thousand two
hundred fifty dollars ($1,250) per semester worked. Geographic areas with acute
shortages in math or science, or both, will be identified by ACHE, in consultation with
the State Department of Education. The qualifying school districts will be posted on the
Commission’s website.

The recipient may only receive funds for a maximum of four consecutive years.

An applicant must satisfy all of the following:

(a) Be a graduate of an ALSBE approved program in math or science beginning with
the spring term of 2018 and forward from that date, at the baccalaureate or master’s
level, from an approved institution leading to an initial secondary professional educator
certificate endorsed in math or science. This does not include a teacher who only earns
a passing score on the Praxis test in math or science to add a certificate endorsement,
and who has not completed an entire approved program.
(b) Holds a valid Alabama professional educator certificate endorsed in secondary math or science, or both.

(c) Is teaching math or science full-time in an Alabama public school district, or at a charter school which has been approved by the Alabama Public Charter School Commission.

(d) Is a citizen or a lawful permanent resident of the United States.

(e) Has been a resident of Alabama for at least twelve (12) months before the application deadline, and provides documentation proving a permanent connection to the state of Alabama. ACHE shall accept any one of the following as proof of residency:

1. A current valid Alabama driver's license.
2. A current valid Alabama vehicle registration.
3. A current valid Alabama voter registration card.

(f) Has outstanding federal student loans, subsidized or unsubsidized.

Information concerning the program, including the critical teacher shortage districts and the application for the program, can be found at: https://amstep.ache.edu. The application currently is in development and should be available on or about November 1, 2018.

There is no deadline for applications.

For further information contact:

Cheryl Newton
Manager of Grants and Scholarships
P.O. Box 302000
Montgomery, AL 36130-2000
Telephone: (334) 242-2273
Email: cheryl.newton@ache.edu