

# Eligibility for Specific FSA Programs

## CHAPTER 6

*Most of the student eligibility requirements we have discussed so far apply to all or most of the FSA programs, but there are additional factors that are program specific.*

### PELL GRANTS

In general, a student must be enrolled in an undergraduate course of study to receive a Pell grant, though there are teaching certification exceptions (see the next page). A student who has earned a baccalaureate degree or a first professional degree cannot receive a Pell grant.

A student who completes a master's program has earned a degree beyond the baccalaureate level (in many instances a professional degree), making her ineligible for a Pell grant even if she does not have a bachelor's degree and enrolls in an undergraduate program.



A student who has received an associate degree—or any certificate or diploma below the baccalaureate level—and who enrolls in another undergraduate program continues to be considered an undergraduate student until she has completed the curriculum requirements for a first bachelor's degree.

A student with a baccalaureate or professional degree is ineligible even if the degree is from an unaccredited school or is not recognized by your school. Similarly, a student with a baccalaureate or professional degree from a foreign school usually isn't eligible for a Pell grant. But because a foreign degree often won't translate neatly into the American classification, the school must judge whether it equates to a U.S. bachelor's degree. If the student provides written documentation that the foreign degree is not equivalent to a bachelor's degree awarded in the United States, your school may determine that he does not have a bachelor's degree. The documents may include information about the type of school the student attended and total years of education leading to the degree.

Occasionally a student will complete all the requirements for a bachelor's degree but will continue taking undergraduate courses without accepting the degree. Your school must decide whether and at what point the student completed the baccalaureate course of study. If your school determines that the student did complete a bachelor's program, then he is no longer eligible to receive a Pell grant.

### Undergraduate student definition

34 CFR 668.2(b)

A student enrolled in a program of study that is usually four, or sometimes five, academic years and that leads to a baccalaureate degree. A student enrolled in a program that lasts longer than five years, typically first professional degree programs such as a six-year pharmacy program, can be considered an undergraduate for only the first three or four years.

Students enrolled in dual degree programs that confer a bachelor's degree and either a graduate or first professional degree are undergraduates for at least the first three years of the program. The school determines at what point after three years the student ceases to be an undergraduate.

For the FSEOG, Pell, and TEACH Grant programs, a student is an undergraduate only if he has not earned, or completed the requirements for, a bachelor's or professional degree. Students enrolled in an eligible postbaccalaureate program as described on the next page are still undergraduates for receiving TEACH and Pell grants. 34 CFR 668.2(b), 686.2(d), and 690.6



### Professional degree

A degree that signifies both completion of the academic requirements for beginning practice in a given profession and a level of professional skill beyond that normally required for a bachelor's degree. Professional licensure is also generally required. Some examples are pharmacy (Pharm.D.), dentistry (D.D.S. or D.M.D.), and law (LL.B. or J.D.).

### Incarcerated Students and Pell

HEA Sec. 401(b)(8), 34 CFR 668.32(c)(2)(ii), "Dear Colleague" Letter P-94-7  
Costs for incarcerated students  
HEA Sec. 472(6)

### Wrong grade level on the FAFSA

When an undergraduate student incorrectly reports on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) that he will be a graduate student or has a bachelor's degree, he must correct that information. Because the application shows that the student isn't an undergraduate, the Department's records will show that he is ineligible for Pell. If the application isn't corrected, the school won't be able to pay him a Pell grant.

### Eligible postbaccalaureate program and the FAFSA

34 CFR 690.6(c)

Normally a student who indicates on the FAFSA that he has a bachelor's degree won't be listed in the Department's records as a Pell-eligible student, and the school won't be able to receive Pell funds for the student. However, in order to allow students who are eligible under the postbaccalaureate program provision to be paid, students who correctly report that they have a bachelor's degree but also indicate on the FAFSA that they're in a teaching credential program will be listed as Pell-eligible students. Of course, you must determine whether the student actually falls under the eligible postbaccalaureate provision.

### Incarcerated students and sex offenders

Students incarcerated in federal and state penal institutions aren't eligible for Pell grants, but those incarcerated in local penal institutions are. Students incarcerated by jurisdictions defined as a state in the law, such as the District of Columbia, are considered to be in a state penal institution and aren't eligible for Pell grants. A student isn't considered incarcerated if she is in a halfway house or home detention or is sentenced to serve only on weekends.

The cost of attendance for students who are incarcerated in local penal institutions is limited to tuition and fees and the price of books and supplies specifically related to the student's course of study. For more information on the cost of attendance, see *Volume 3, Chapter 2*.

A student cannot receive a Pell grant if he is subject to an involuntary civil commitment following incarceration for a sexual offense (as determined under the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting Program).

### Duration of eligibility

All students who first received a Pell grant on or after July 1, 2008 (the limit does not apply to students who received their first Pell grant before then), may receive Pell grants for up to 18 semesters or the equivalent. This means students can receive no more than nine scheduled awards; less-than-full-time students are assessed accordingly.

### Eligible postbaccalaureate program

A student who is enrolled at least half time in a postbaccalaureate teacher certification or licensure program is eligible to receive a Pell grant for the period necessary to complete the program if:

- the program does not lead to a graduate degree;
- the school offering the program does not also offer a bachelor's degree in education;
- the student is pursuing an initial teacher certification or licensing credential within a state; and
- the program consists of the courses required by a state to receive a professional certification or licensing credential necessary for employment as a teacher in an elementary or secondary school in that state.

Under this **very limited provision**, a postbaccalaureate program is defined as a program that generally requires a student to have a bachelor's degree before being admitted to the program. Accordingly, a program in which undergraduate students are routinely allowed to enroll would not meet the definition of a postbaccalaureate program for this purpose, nor would a program that is generally open to undergraduates but that also admits students with bachelor's degrees.

For FSA purposes, a school must treat a student who receives a Pell grant under this provision as enrolled in an undergraduate program. He is eligible for fifth-year undergraduate (not graduate student) Stafford loan limits. He is not eligible for an FSEOG.

## IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN SERVICE GRANTS & ZERO EFCs

A student whose parent or guardian died as a result of U.S. military service in Iraq or Afghanistan after September 11, 2001, may receive increased FSA funds if at the time of the parent or guardian's death the student was either less than 24 years old or was enrolled in college.

- If the student is eligible for a Pell grant, you award and package all Title IV aid based on an EFC of zero.
- If the student is ineligible for a Pell grant only because his EFC is too high, he may receive an Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant. As with Pell Grants, there is a receipt limit of 18 semesters, and payments are adjusted for students enrolled less than full time. Unlike Pell grants, these non-need-based grants do not count as estimated financial assistance.

See *Volume 3, Chapters 3 and 7* for the award and packaging rules for these students.

## STAFFORD AND PLUS LOANS

To be eligible for Stafford loans, undergraduate students attending a school that participates in the Pell Grant Program must first receive a determination of their eligibility for Pell grants. See *Volume 3, Chapter 7*.

Generally a student must be enrolled or accepted for enrollment in a degree or certificate program to receive FSA funds, but there are exceptions that apply to Stafford and PLUS loans.

### **Preparatory coursework**

A student may apply for a Stafford or PLUS loan for coursework the school has documented is necessary for him to enroll in an eligible program. The courses must be part of an eligible program otherwise offered by the school, though the student does not have to be in that program. If enrolled at least half time in these prerequisite courses, he is eligible for loans for one consecutive 12-month period (not per program) beginning on the first day of the loan period. If the period of preparatory courses spans more than one academic year, the student may receive multiple loans.

To be eligible for loans under this exception, the student must be taking classes that are a prerequisite for admission. If he is only taking them to raise his GPA in order to be admitted, he would not qualify.

### **Teacher certification coursework**

Chapter 1 explains when a student may receive a Stafford or PLUS loan, among other aid, for courses necessary for an elementary or secondary school teaching credential or certification.

### **Parent borrower eligibility**

To borrow a PLUS loan for a student, the parent must be the student's biological or adoptive mother or father. Both parents may get a PLUS loan as long as the total aid package does not exceed the student's cost of attendance. A stepparent is also eligible to borrow a PLUS loan if her income and

---

### **Preparatory coursework example**

Eddy has a bachelor's degree, with a major in mathematics. He wants to enroll in a graduate computer science program at Guerrero University. He needs 12 more semester hours of computer science coursework to meet Guerrero's admission requirements. He enrolls in courses that are part of Guerrero's undergraduate degree program, but because he is not enrolled for the purpose of receiving an undergraduate degree, he is not a regular student. However, because the coursework is necessary for his enrollment in the graduate program, he may receive a Direct loan for this coursework.

34 CFR 685.203(a)(6)

---

### **Preparatory coursework at a different school**

A student may take the preparatory courses at School A (as long as they are part of an eligible program there) to prepare for enrollment at School B. Also, School A may require documentation from School B that these courses are required for the student's enrollment.

**Refusing or reducing loans**

34 CFR 685.301(a)(8):

"A school may refuse to originate a Direct Subsidized, Direct Unsubsidized, or Direct PLUS Loan or may reduce the borrower's determination of need for the loan if the reason for that action is documented and provided to the borrower in writing, and if—

(i) The determination is made on a case-by-case basis;

(ii) The documentation supporting the determination is retained in the student's file; and

(iii) The school does not engage in any pattern or practice that results in a denial of a borrower's access to Direct Loans because of the borrower's race, gender, color, religion, national origin, age, disability status, or income."



assets would be taken into account when calculating the dependent student's EFC. A legal guardian is not considered a parent for FSA purposes.

A parent may receive a PLUS loan only to pay for the education costs of a dependent undergraduate student who meets the eligible student definition.

A parent must meet the same citizenship and residency requirements as a student. Similarly, a parent who owes an overpayment on an FSA grant or is in default on an FSA loan is ineligible for a PLUS loan unless he has made satisfactory arrangements to repay the grant or loan. Yet the parent's ineligibility for a PLUS loan does not affect the student's eligibility for FSA funds.

If the parent had a prior Stafford loan that was cancelled for total and permanent disability, he must adhere to the same eligibility requirements outlined for Stafford borrowers in Chapter 3.

Finally, a parent is not eligible for a PLUS loan if the federal government holds a judgment lien on her property or if she is incarcerated.

**Adverse credit history for PLUS**

A parent or graduate/professional student with an adverse credit history is prohibited from obtaining a PLUS loan unless he meets additional criteria. The Department obtains a credit report on each applicant for a loan from at least one national credit bureau. An applicant is considered to have an adverse credit history if:

- he is 90 days or more delinquent on any debt, or
- during the five years preceding the date of the credit report, he has been determined to be in default on a debt, his debts have been discharged in bankruptcy, or he has been the subject of foreclosure, repossession, tax lien, wage garnishment, or write-off of an FSA debt.

An applicant cannot be rejected for a PLUS loan because she has no credit history—i.e., the absence of a credit history cannot be construed as an adverse credit history.

Someone with an adverse credit history can qualify for a PLUS loan by securing an endorser who doesn't have an adverse credit history. For a parent borrower, the endorser may not be the dependent student for whom he is borrowing. Instead of securing an endorser, an applicant may appeal a determination of adverse credit history to the Department by documenting extenuating circumstances. The Department has the final decision on whether to make a loan to the person.

If your school participates in the PLUS program but a student's parent cannot obtain a PLUS loan, the student is allowed to borrow additional unsubsidized Stafford money (see *Volume 3, Chapter 5*).

**Student credit checks**

Financial aid administrators may not perform credit checks on students in connection with awarding them federal aid.

**Medical internships and residencies**

A student is ineligible to receive a Stafford loan or a Perkins loan while in a medical internship or residency program unless it is part of the school's degree program. This restriction does not apply to students in dental internship programs.

**CAMPUS-BASED AID GENERAL REQUIREMENTS**

Unlike the Stafford and PLUS loan programs, a student does not have to be enrolled at least half time to be eligible to receive aid through the campus-



based programs unless the student is seeking aid to attend a teacher certification or professional credential program.

A student enrolled as an undergraduate, graduate, or professional student is eligible to receive assistance from the Federal Perkins Loan and Federal Work-Study (FWS) programs. Only undergraduate students who do not have a baccalaureate or first professional degree are eligible to receive Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (FSEOGs). This means that a student who has earned a bachelor's or first professional degree may receive a Perkins loan or FWS wages to pursue a graduate or additional undergraduate degree, but he may not get an FSEOG.

See the margin note on page 38 about how the Compact Act affects FSEOG and FWS eligibility for students from the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia.

### **Teacher certification programs**

As with Stafford loans, a student may receive a Perkins loan or FWS for coursework that doesn't lead to a degree or certificate from the school but that is required by a state for an elementary or secondary school teaching credential or certificate. See *Chapter 1*.

## **PERKINS LOANS**

Both undergraduate and graduate students may receive Perkins loans, but those with *exceptional financial need* (as defined by your school) have priority. To receive a Perkins loan, a student must meet the general eligibility requirements and must not have borrowed the maximum amounts. A student who has earned a bachelor's or first professional degree may receive a Perkins loan to pursue an additional undergraduate degree.

For students to receive a Perkins loan, they must provide the school a driver's license number (if they have one) when they apply for the loan, and they must have their eligibility for a Pell grant determined if they are undergraduates.

A borrower who is in default on an FSA loan is not eligible for a Perkins loan unless she has regained eligibility. However, a borrower who satisfies any of the conditions that remove her defaulted Perkins loan from the school's cohort default rate becomes eligible for additional Perkins loans.

As with Stafford loans, if a borrower received a discharge of a Perkins loan or NDSL due to total and permanent disability and applies for another Perkins loan or NDSL, she must follow the procedure explained in *Chapter 3*.

### **Willingness to repay**

In selecting Perkins loan recipients, a school must consider evidence of a borrower's willingness to repay the loan. Delinquency, default, or other failure to meet repayment obligations on a previous loan is evidence that the borrower is unwilling to repay a loan. For example, if a borrower has previously satisfied a defaulted student loan involuntarily (such as by garnishment of the borrower's wages), a school should consider this as evidence of unwillingness to repay and should deny further loan assistance to the borrower.

### **Members of a religious order**

Members of any religious order, society, agency, community, or other organization aren't considered to have financial need if the order—

- (1) has as a primary objective the promotion of ideals and beliefs regarding a Supreme Being,
- (2) requires its members to forego monetary or other support substantially beyond the support it provides, and
- (3) directs the member to pursue the course of study or provides subsistence support to its members.

Members of these religious orders can't receive subsidized Direct loans, Pell grants, or Campus-based aid. They are eligible, however, for unsubsidized Direct loans.

34 CFR 674.9(c), 675.9(c), 676.9(c), 685.200(a)(2)(ii), 690.75(d)

### **Perkins loan eligibility**

34 CFR 674.9

Medical internship or residency  
HEA 464(c)(2)(A)(i)

Incarceration  
34 CFR 668.32(c)(2)(ii)

Default  
HEA 464 (b)(1)

Teacher certification programs  
34 CFR 668.32(a)(1)(iii)

### **Previous disability cancellation**

34 CFR 674.9(g) and (h)

### **Willingness to repay**

34 CFR 674.9(e)

***Previous Perkins loan discharged in bankruptcy***

Due to the Bankruptcy Reform Act of 1994, a student or parent may not be denied FSA loans solely on the basis of a bankruptcy filing or discharge. They also may not be required to repay a previously discharged loan in order to reestablish eligibility for new loans. However, aid administrators have more latitude in making awards under the Perkins than the Direct Loan program because they may consider a student's willingness to repay. If a student has filed for or received a loan discharge in bankruptcy or has had an FSA loan determined dischargeable by a court of law, the bankruptcy may be considered when determining a student's willingness to repay provided it is not the sole basis for the determination and for a denial of a Perkins loan. Schools may also, of course, consider the student's post-bankruptcy credit history in determining willingness to repay.

**FWS eligibility**

34 CFR 675.9

**FEDERAL WORK-STUDY (FWS)**

To be eligible for a Federal Work-Study (FWS) job, a student must meet the usual eligibility criteria and must have financial need, that is, his cost of attendance must be greater than his expected family contribution (EFC). Also, a financial aid administrator may not award FWS employment to a student if that award, when combined with all other resources, would exceed the student's need. However, unlike the other two Campus-based programs, the FWS Program does not require that priority be given to students who have *exceptional* financial need. In choosing students for FWS employment, schools must follow the procedures discussed in *Volume 3, Chapter 6*.

**Additional FWS criteria**

For information on eligible FWS jobs, see *Volume 6*.

A student can be employed in an FWS job during a period of non-attendance, such as a summer term. He must be planning to attend school during the next period of enrollment and must have financial need for that period—his current FWS earnings must be used to cover expenses for it and will count as estimated financial assistance. See *Volume 6, Chapter 2*, for more information.

**FSEOG eligibility**

34 CFR 676.9 and 676.10  
34 CFR 668.32(c)(1)

**FSEOG**

To receive a Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG), a student must have financial need and must meet the general eligibility requirements discussed in the other chapters of this volume. Students with the lowest EFCs who will also receive Pell grants for the award year have primary consideration for an FSEOG. If after giving FSEOG awards to all its Pell recipients a school has FSEOG funds remaining, it can award those funds to eligible students with the lowest EFCs who will not receive Pell grants. See *Volume 3, Chapter 6*.

Additionally, to receive an FSEOG one must be enrolled or accepted for enrollment as an undergraduate student and must not have previously earned a bachelor's or first professional degree.



A school must make FSEOG funds reasonably available (to the extent that funds remain) to all eligible students.

## TEACH GRANTS

The Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant Program provides \$4,000 annual grants to students who plan to become teachers. Candidates must agree to serve as full-time teachers at certain schools and within certain high-need fields for at least four academic years within eight years of completing the course of study for which a grant was received. If a grant recipient does not meet that obligation, the TEACH grant funds he received convert to a Direct unsubsidized loan that must be repaid with interest.

### ***Amount of grant funds available***

A full-time TEACH grant recipient may receive four scheduled awards of \$4,000 each, or a total of \$16,000, for her *first* (those after the first are not eligible) baccalaureate and postbaccalaureate programs combined. A graduate student may receive two scheduled awards, or a total of \$8,000, for a master's degree program. Students who are enrolled less than full time have the same maximums, though the annual awards will be smaller: for example, a student enrolled half time in a master's program could receive an annual award of \$2,000 for each of the four years it would take her to complete her program. A TEACH grant in combination with other assistance the student receives cannot exceed the cost of attendance; if it does, her aid package must be reduced.

### ***Receiving a TEACH grant***

To qualify for a TEACH Grant, a student fills out not only a FAFSA but an agreement to serve (explained later) and must be enrolled in a program and at a school that are both TEACH-grant eligible.

Students must adhere to an academic standard: they must have a grade point average of at least 3.25 on a 4.0 scale, or the numeric equivalent (see “Schools without a traditional GPA” on page 75), or must have scored above the 75th percentile on at least one of the batteries on a nationally-normed standardized undergraduate, postbaccalaureate, or graduate school admissions test. An undergraduate student uses for the first year her final high school GPA or the GPA for all the classes she has taken at college through the most recently completed payment period; after the first year she uses the latter GPA. A graduate student uses her undergraduate GPA for the first payment period and her cumulative graduate school GPA thereafter.

You must have documentation of the GPA from the cognizant authority or from the student. For high school grades the authority is typically the high school or, in the case of homeschooled students, the parents or guardians. If the student provides the document and you have reason to question its accuracy, you must obtain documentation directly from the cognizant authority.

The above academic requirements do not apply to certain graduate students. This group comprises current teachers or retirees from another occupation with expertise in a high-need field who are seeking a master's degree, as well as current or former teachers who are completing a high-quality alternative certification, such as Teach for America.

When you determine TEACH grant eligibility for transfer students and calculate their GPA, you must, for at least the first payment period, include

## TEACH Grant Program

34 CFR 686

### **TEACH grant-eligible program**

This is an eligible program as described in *Volume 2, Chapter 2*, that prepares one to be a highly qualified teacher in a high need field and that leads to a bachelor's or master's degree or is a postbaccalaureate program. A two-year program acceptable for full credit toward a bachelor's degree is considered a program that leads to a bachelor's degree.

**TEACH grant definitions****High-need field—**

1. Bilingual education and English language acquisition
2. Foreign language
3. Mathematics
4. Reading specialist
5. Science
6. Special education
7. Another field documented as high-need by the federal government, a state government, or a local education agency, and appearing on the Department's annual Teacher Shortage Area Nationwide Listing.

**Postbaccalaureate program—**a program for those who have completed a bachelor's degree that:

1. does not lead to a graduate degree,
2. consists of courses required by a state for a credential necessary for teaching at an elementary or secondary school in that state (this does not include any program offered by a TEACH grant-eligible school that offers a bachelor's degree in education), and
3. is treated as an undergraduate program for FSA purposes.

**Scheduled award—**the maximum amount of a TEACH grant that a full-time student could receive for a year.

**School or educational service agency serving low-income students (low-income school or educational service agency)—**an elementary or secondary school or an educational service agency listed in the Department's annual Teacher Cancellation Low Income Directory (see [www.tcli.ed.gov](http://www.tcli.ed.gov)) because it—

1. is in the school district of a local education agency that is eligible for assistance under Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), and
2. has been determined by the Secretary to have more than 30 percent of its children qualify for services under Title I of the ESEA.

grades for courses accepted for transfer into the TEACH grant-eligible program. For subsequent payment periods, follow your academic policy regarding the calculation of the GPA, whether that is to include grades for courses that transfer or to exclude them.

**Agreement to serve**

To receive a TEACH grant, a student must sign an agreement to serve. This document explains that the student will:

- Serve as a full-time teacher for a total of at least four academic years within eight calendar years of completing or otherwise ceasing to be enrolled in the course of study for which the TEACH grant was received;
- Teach at a school or educational service agency serving low-income students;
- Comply with the requirements for being a highly qualified teacher (see the margin note on the next page);
- Teach (in the majority of classes) in a high-need field, which includes subjects on the nationwide shortage area list at <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/pol/tsa.html> that is updated each year by the Department;
- Upon completion of each year of service, provide certification of that service from the chief administrative officer of the school or educational service agency; and
- If she fails or refuses to carry out her service obligation in the time noted above, repay as an unsubsidized Direct loan the total amount of the TEACH grants received, with interest accrued as of the date of disbursement of each grant.

A person must complete a four-year service obligation for each program of study for which he receives TEACH grants. The eight-year period for completing this obligation begins when his enrollment in the program ends. Teaching may apply to more than one obligation: for example, a student who completes a bachelor's and a master's program consecutively and receives TEACH grants for both would have two service obligations. He could receive a suspension for completing the obligation for the undergraduate program while he is enrolled in the master's program. Once that is done, four years of qualifying teaching would satisfy the service obligations for both programs. However, if he finishes the bachelor's program, completes the obligation for it, and later enrolls in the master's program, he would need to complete another four-year service obligation.

For each year of the person's service obligation, she must teach a majority of classes in a high-need field. Fields on the nationwide list must be designated as high-need by the state where and when she begins teaching or they must have been listed when she received her TEACH grant. Teaching in a geographic region of a state or in a grade level not associated in the nationwide list with the student's field does not satisfy the service obligation.



***Schools without a traditional GPA***

Schools that do not use a standard 4.0 GPA scale for a program must have a written equivalency policy with a numeric scale and must make it available upon request. The policy must clearly differentiate student performance so that it can support a determination that a student has achieved at a level commensurate with at least a 3.25 GPA on a 4.0 scale. Generally a grading scale that includes only “pass/fail,” “satisfactory/unsatisfactory,” or some other non-numeric evaluation will not meet this requirement unless it can be shown that a “pass” or “satisfactory” grade has a numeric equivalent to a traditional 3.25 GPA (or higher) or that a student’s performance on tests and assignments yielded such a numeric equivalent.

Such a policy must be consistent with other grading scales that the school has developed for academic and other (including FSA) purposes—e.g., graduate school applications, scholarship eligibility, insurance certifications—to the extent that such scales distinguish between levels of student academic performance.

**School without traditional GPA**

At Chisos Basin University instructors submit at the end of the semester an evaluation that the work a student does in a class is “satisfactory” or “unsatisfactory.” The catalog indicates that the evaluation is never translated into a grade by the registrar’s office. Neither the catalog, the faculty handbook, nor any other CBU publication differentiates levels of satisfactory student performance. Even though the state scholarship program accepts a “satisfactory” as the equivalent of a “B,” the university may not make such an assumption for the TEACH Grant program. Moreover, a “B” grade generally corresponds to a GPA of 3.0, while TEACH grants require a GPA of 3.25 or better.

**Highly qualified teacher**

The definition of “highly qualified” with respect to teachers is lengthy and is explained in Section 9101(23) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act [USC 7801(23)] and Section 602(10) of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act [USC 1401(10)].

