



JOY HOFMEISTER
STATE SUPERINTENDENT *of* PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
OKLAHOMA STATE DEPARTMENT *of* EDUCATION

May 27, 2021

1727 W. Alabama
Troutt Hall Room 215
Chickasha, OK 73018

Dear,

A severe teacher shortage has plagued Oklahoma for the past decade. To help ensure greater access to completion of education pathways at Oklahoma colleges and universities, the Oklahoma State Department of Education (OSDE) is excited to announce that we are investing federal relief dollars to compensate pre-service teachers for their work as student teachers. The program will fund ***all*** Oklahoma student teachers annually, beginning in school year 2021-22 and continuing through school year 2023-24.

Through a partnership with the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education (OSRHE) and the OSDE, scholarship and stipend awards will be made available for up to a total of **\$3,250** per individual student teacher approved by Oklahoma Educator Preparation Programs (EPPs).

In order to receive approval for each EPP's allocation of funds:

1. The EPP will identify student teachers eligible to receive an award (any approved student teacher with a student teaching assignment for an upcoming semester is considered eligible).
2. Using [this form](#), the EPP will submit names and required information to the OSDE **and** the OSRHE.
 - Upon completion, please email the form to Robyn Miller at robyn.miller@sde.ok.gov **and** Goldie Thompson at gthompson@osrhe.edu. The form is simple and requires only the student teacher's name, major, assigned site(s) and dates when the student teaching experience will take place.
3. OSDE will then transfer funds to the OSRHE for the awards.
4. Upon receipt of funds, the OSRHE will distribute scholarship award funds to the EPP's Financial Aid Office.
5. The EPP's Financial Aid Office will provide awards to the student teacher according to the following pay schedule:
 - ***Student Teaching Incentive Scholarship***
\$1,625 paid no later than the first week of student teaching

- ***Completion Stipend***
\$1,625 paid after completion of student teaching **and** upon the EPP's submission of documentation verifying the student teacher officially has signed a contract to teach in an Oklahoma public school.
 - The EPP will use [this form](#) to email employment verification to Robyn Miller at the OSDE and Goldie Thompson at the OSRHE at the email addresses above.

This program is effective immediately. We look forward to receiving your list of 2021-22 student teachers and to removing a barrier for prospective teachers to complete their education preparation program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joy Hofmeister". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small dot above the "i" in Hofmeister.

Joy Hofmeister
State Superintendent of Public Instruction