



Troops to Teachers

The federal Troops to Teachers program is expanding opportunities for returning troops to teach in the nation's schools. Because of their unique skills, leadership skills, and service background, military personnel are ideal candidates for entry into the teaching profession. The College of Education and Technology at Fort Hays State University has a history of supporting a partnership with the Troops to Teachers program and welcomes the chance to assist veterans in becoming public school teachers, whether early childhood unified, elementary education or secondary education. Because we strive to provide broad access to courses for students, our early childhood unified, elementary education and Transition to Teaching programs can be obtained online. The FHSU Transition to Teaching program allows a person who already has a bachelor's degree or higher in a content area to be employed with a school district in Kansas while taking the education coursework online (www.fhsu.edu/cert/t2t/). For more information on licensure options in Kansas, contact Kerry Schuckman, Licensure Officer at FHSU at kschuckm@fhsu.edu or 785-628-4542.

Legislation was recently introduced, Post-9/11 Troops to Teachers Enhancement Act, that will make the existing program more accessible by reducing the length of military service requirements for participants and expanding the number of school districts at which troops may receive a stipend to teach. With the new legislation, 90% of Kansas public schools could participate.

Eligibility includes:

- Retired from the military OR
- Had at least six years of service (active or in the reserves) OR
- 90 continuous days of active duty in the armed forces beginning on or after September 11, 2001 (new legislation introduced)
- Honorable discharge from active duty after September 30, 1990

Financial Assistance available includes:

- \$5,000 stipend to defray educational expenses (includes tuition, books, certification and testing fees, mileage, childcare for program related absences). Must then teach in a qualified school that receives funding under part A of title I or public charter school. (new legislation introduced)
- \$10,000 bonus to teach in a low income school (50% or more of the students participate in the free or reduced lunch program).
- Both require a 3-year teaching requirement
- Maximum received cannot exceed \$10,000

For more information about the Troops to Teachers program in the Midwest, contact Meghan Diderrich at mdiderrich@mwttt.com, 800-438-6851 or www.mwttt.com.