

## **How would an Elementary Teacher meet the service requirements to maintain the Teach Grant?**

For purposes of the TEACH Grant program, a teacher is someone who provides direct classroom teaching or classroom-type teaching in a non-classroom setting in an elementary or secondary school. An elementary or secondary school is a nonprofit institutional day or residential school, including a public elementary or secondary charter school, that provides elementary or secondary education, as determined under State law.

To meet the criterion of teaching in an elementary school, the service would need to take place in an elementary school and the State would need to consider early childhood education a component of the State's elementary school education system and have designated early childhood education as a high-need field.

Elementary education could be a high-need field if it is designated as a high-need field by the State in which the recipient teaches.

There are other limited circumstances under which a grant recipient can satisfy the service obligation by serving as an elementary school teacher including: (1) Teaching the majority of his or her courses in a high-need field, such as math, science, or a foreign language; (2) teaching in a foreign language immersion program; (3) serving as a reading specialist, a special education teacher, or a bilingual education teacher, or teaching English language acquisition; or (4) teaching in a low-income school in a State that has designated elementary education as a high-need field.

Section 420N(b)(1)(C) of the HEA requires that a TEACH Grant recipient enter into an agreement in which he or she commits to teach in mathematics, science, a foreign language, bilingual education, special education, as a reading specialist, or in any other high-need field documented by the Federal government or a State or local government and approved by the Secretary in exchange for the grant. In recognition of the fact that TEACH Grant recipients who intend to become elementary school teachers may not be able to meet the requirement to teach in a high-need field because of the nature of elementary school curriculum, Sec.686.12(b)(1)(iii) and 686.40(c)(1)(i) and (ii) permit a teacher to fulfill the requirement to teach in a high-need field if the majority of classes taught are in a high-need field. These provisions sufficiently address how an elementary school teacher can meet the requirements of his or her ATS.

An elementary teacher may fulfill the requirement to teach in a high-need field if the majority of classes taught are in a high-need field. It is important to note that an elementary school teacher can also satisfy the requirement to teach in a high-need field if the State in which he or she teaches designates "elementary school teachers" as a high-need field. In this case, the designation alone satisfies the requirement to teach in a high-need field, regardless of whether the majority of the classes taught by the grant recipient were taught in a high-need field. An elementary school teacher can also satisfy the requirement to teach in a high-need field if he or she is a full-time teacher in mathematics, science, a foreign language, bilingual education, or special education or is a reading specialist.