



TO: Regional Consortia Alternative Route Program Applicants

FROM: Mea Moore
Director of Alternative Route Programs

RE: Conditional Loan Scholarships

A limited number of \$8,000 conditional loan scholarships will be available for 2010-11 for alternative route program interns. The conditional scholarship is a loan that can be forgiven in exchange for teaching service in a designated shortage area. The state shall forgive one year of loan obligation for every two years a recipient teaches in a Washington public school in a shortage area. Failure to meet the service obligation will result in your repaying the loan with interest and fees. You may qualify for a conditional loan scholarship if you meet the following criteria:

1. **Route 2 interns** – currently employed classified staff with a baccalaureate degree seeking an endorsement in **subject matter shortage areas (special education, mathematics, general science, middle school mathematics and science, chemistry, physics, biology, early childhood special education, English as a Second Language, bilingual)** and/or areas with shortage due to geographic location as documented by partnership districts, AND
 - District validation of qualifications, including three years of successful student interaction and leadership as classified staff;
 - A baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited institution of higher education;
 - Successful passage of the statewide basic skills exam (WEST-B) and content area test WEST-E for endorsement area; and
 - Meeting the age, good moral character, and personal fitness requirements for teachers.
2. **Route 3 interns** – individuals with baccalaureate degrees, who are not employed in the district at the time of application, or who hold emergency substitute certificates. **Priority shall be given to individuals who are seeking endorsements in subject matter shortage areas (areas listed in Route 2).** Districts may include additional candidates seeking endorsements in nonshortage areas if the candidates are seeking endorsements with a secondary grade level designation. The districts shall disclose to candidates in nonshortage subject areas available information on the demand in those subject areas. Please recall that failure to obtain employment in an eligible position within six months after completion of the residency certificate program will require repayment of the

conditional loan scholarship, with interest. Additional requirements for Route 3 include:

- One year career work experience;
- A baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited institution of higher education;
- External validation of qualifications, including demonstrated successful experience with students or children, such as references (reference) letters and letters of support from previous employers; and
- Successful passage of the statewide basic skills exam (WEST-B) and content area test WEST-E for endorsement area.

3. Route 4 interns – individuals teaching with conditional certificates in identified shortage areas or individuals with emergency substitute certificates who meet the eligibility criteria defined for route 3.

Again, let me emphasize that loan forgiveness is based upon your securing employment as a teacher in a Washington public school in a shortage area or secondary subject area. Employment as an elementary education, early childhood education and elementary specialist (art, music, PE, etc.) teacher will not qualify for forgiveness. Teaching in a private school will not qualify for forgiveness.

The Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB) administers the conditional loan. It is responsible for issuing checks to students and for assigning the loan forgiveness in exchange for teaching service. The HECB is also responsible for collection of the loans for individuals who fail to meet the loan forgiveness requirements. Applications (promissory notes) may be obtained from your alternative route program coordinator once you have been admitted and are participating in the program.