

## DAVID A. DEBOLT TEACHER SHORTAGE SCHOLARSHIP (DTSS) PROGRAM

TITLE 23: EDUCATION AND CULTURAL RESOURCES  
SUBTITLE A: EDUCATION  
CHAPTER XIX: ILLINOIS STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

## PART 2764

## DAVID A. DEBOLT TEACHER SHORTAGE SCHOLARSHIP (DTSS) PROGRAM

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**AUTHORITY:** Implementing Section 65.55 of the Higher Education Student Assistance Act [110 ILCS 947/65.55] and authorized by Sections 20(f) and 65.55 of the Higher Education Student Assistance Act [110 ILCS 947/20(f) and 65.55].

**SOURCE:** Emergency rules adopted at 19 Ill. Reg. 976, effective February 1, 1995, for a maximum of 150 days; emergency expired on June 30, 1995; adopted at 19 Ill. Reg. 11367, effective August 1, 1995; amended at 20 Ill. Reg. 9141, effective July 1, 1996; Old Part repealed and New Part adopted at 21 Ill. Reg. 11029, effective July 18, 1997; amended at 22 Ill. Reg. 11043, effective July 1, 1998; amended at 24 Ill. Reg. 9095, effective July 1, 2000.

**Section 2764.10 Summary and Purpose**

- a) The David A. DeBolt Teacher Shortage Scholarship (DTSS) encourages academically talented students to pursue careers as public, private or parochial preschool, elementary and secondary school teachers in disciplines that have been designated as teacher shortage disciplines in the State of Illinois with a priority given to minority students.
- b) This Part establishes the rules which govern the DTSS Program. Additional rules and definitions are contained in General Provisions, 23 Ill. Adm. Code 2700.

(Source: Amended at 24 Ill. Reg. 9095, effective July 1, 2000)

**Section 2764.20 Applicant Eligibility**

- a) A qualified applicant shall be:
  - 1) a United States citizen or eligible noncitizen;
  - 2) a resident of Illinois;
  - 3) a high school graduate or a person who has received a General Educational Development (GED) Certificate;
  - 4) enrolled, or accepted for enrollment, on at least a half-time basis at the sophomore level or above at an institution of higher learning; and

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- 5) pursuing a postsecondary course of study leading to initial certification in a teacher shortage discipline or taking additional courses needed to gain Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) approval to teach in an approved specialized teacher shortage program.
- b) In any academic year in which the qualified applicant accepts or receives financial assistance through the Paul Douglas Teacher Scholarship Program (23 Ill. Adm. Code 2762), the Minority Teachers of Illinois Scholarship Program (23 Ill. Adm. Code 2763), or the Special Education Tuition Waiver Program (23 Ill. Adm. Code 2765), the qualified applicant shall not be eligible for scholarship assistance under this Part.

(Source: Amended at 22 Ill. Reg. 11043, effective July 1, 1998)

**Section 2764.30 Program Procedures**

- a) All applicants must complete and file the form which the U.S. Department of Education (ED) designates as an application for federal student financial aid for the purpose of determining the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) which is used as a selection criteria for this award. (See Section 483 of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (20 USCA 1070a).)
- b) A completed ISAC application for the David A. DeBolt Teacher Shortage Scholarship Program must be postmarked on or before March 1 immediately preceding the academic year for which the scholarship is being requested, in order to receive priority consideration for an award.
  - 1) ISAC applications are available from qualified institutions of higher learning, State legislative and Congressional offices, and ISAC's Springfield, Deerfield and Chicago offices.
  - 2) ISAC will mail renewal ISAC applications to all qualified students who received DeBolt Teacher Shortage Scholarships during the preceding academic year.
  - 3) If the student section of an ISAC application is incomplete, ISAC will notify the applicant. The applicant will then have an opportunity to furnish the missing information; however, the application will be considered for processing as of the date when the application is complete and received at ISAC's Deerfield office.
- c) ISAC shall select the recipients from among qualified applicants who filed timely applications based on a combination of the following criteria:
  - 1) cumulative grade point averages, prioritized from the highest to the lowest. All grade point averages will be converted to a four-point scale;
  - 2) Expected Family Contribution (EFC), from the lowest to the highest;
  - 3) minority students shall receive priority consideration; and
  - 4) recipients of assistance under DTSS during the previous academic year shall receive first priority consideration provided the student:

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- A) continues to maintain a cumulative grade point average of no less than 2.5 on a 4.0 scale;
  - B) maintains his or her status as a qualified applicant, as outlined in Section 2764.20(a) of this Part, Applicant Eligibility;
  - C) maintains satisfactory academic progress as determined by the institution; and
  - D) has submitted an application on a timely basis.
- d) If all other criteria are equal, priority consideration will be given to the qualified applicant who submitted his or her completed application to ISAC on the earliest date.
  - e) A recipient may receive up to 8 semesters/12 quarters of scholarship assistance under this program.
  - f) Scholarship funds are applicable toward two semesters/three quarters of half-time and full-time study within an academic year.
  - g) The total number of scholarships awarded in a given fiscal year is contingent upon available funding.
  - h) To the extent necessary to administer this program within the limits of the State appropriation, the Commission may adjust the priority consideration factors established by this Section.
  - i) ISAC shall publish guidelines for the awarding of DeBolt Teacher Shortage Scholarships.
  - j) Notice of eligibility shall be sent by ISAC to each qualified applicant who is selected to receive a DTSS. A notice will be sent by ISAC to each qualified applicant who is not selected to receive a DTSS.
  - k) Prior to receiving scholarship assistance for any academic year, the qualified applicant must sign a Teaching Agreement/Promissory Note that is submitted to ISAC. The Teaching Agreement/Promissory Note shall include the following stipulations:
    - 1) the recipient pledges to teach, on a full-time basis, in a teacher shortage discipline for one year for each year of scholarship aid received or for any portion of a year for which aid was received, under this Part;
    - 2) the teaching requirement will be fulfilled within the five-year period following completion of the postsecondary education degree or certificate program for which the scholarship was awarded;
    - 3) the teaching requirement will be fulfilled at an Illinois public, private or parochial preschool, elementary or secondary school;
    - 4) if the teaching requirement is not fulfilled, the scholarship converts to a loan and the recipient must repay the entire amount of the scholarship(s) prorated according to

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- the fraction of the teaching obligation not completed, plus interest at a rate no greater than the highest rate applicable to new student loans made under FFELP and, if applicable, reasonable collection fees;
- 5) the recipient agrees to provide ISAC with evidence of compliance with program requirements (e.g., responses to annual follow-up questionnaires, etc.); and
  - 6) the recipient promises to use the proceeds of the scholarship for educational expenses.
- l) The five-year time period during which the teaching requirement must be fulfilled may be extended if the recipient:
- 1) serves, for not more than three years, as a member of the United States Armed Forces; or
  - 2) is enrolled full-time in a graduate course of study related to the field of teaching at an institution of higher learning; or
  - 3) is temporarily totally disabled, for not more than three years, as established by the sworn affidavit of a qualified physician; or
  - 4) is actively seeking but unable to find full-time employment as a teacher at a school that satisfies the criteria set forth in subsection (k)(3) of this section for one continuous period not to exceed two years, and is able to provide evidence of that fact; or
  - 5) is taking additional courses, on at least a half-time basis, needed to gain ISBE approval to teach in a specialized teacher shortage discipline.
- m) If a recipient is required to repay any portion of the scholarship, the repayment period shall be completed within ten years after the scholarship converts to a loan. This ten-year period may be extended if the recipient:
- 1) serves, for not more than three years, as a member of the United States Armed Forces; or
  - 2) is temporarily disabled, for not more than three years, as established by the sworn affidavit of a licensed physician; or
  - 3) is pursuing a graduate course of study and is enrolled on a full-time basis for one continuous period of time not to exceed three years; or
  - 4) is seeking and unable to find full-time employment for one continuous period not to exceed two years and is able to provide evidence of that fact; or
  - 5) withdraws from a course of study leading to certification/approval in a teacher shortage discipline, but is enrolled at least half-time as an undergraduate for one continuous period of time not to exceed three years.

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- n) During the time a recipient qualifies for any of the extensions listed in subsection (m) of this Section, s/he shall not be required to make payments and interest shall not accrue.
- o) A recipient shall enter repayment status on the earliest of the following dates:
  - 1) the first day of the first calendar month after the recipient has ceased to pursue a course of study leading to certification as a teacher in a designated teacher shortage discipline, but not until six months have elapsed after the cessation of at least half-time enrollment in such a course of study;
  - 2) the date the recipient informs ISAC that s/he does not plan to fulfill the teaching obligation; or
  - 3) the latest date upon which the recipient must have begun teaching in order to complete the teaching obligation within five years after completing the postsecondary education for which the scholarship was awarded.
- p) A recipient shall not be required to repay the amount of the scholarship(s) received if s/he becomes permanently totally disabled, as established by the sworn affidavit of a licensed physician (see, e.g., 34 CFR 653.42(k)(1)), or if his or her representative provides ISAC with a death certificate or other evidence that the recipient has died.
- q) Renewal recipients may receive a subsequent award even if their discipline is no longer on the approved list of teacher shortage disciplines.

(Source: Amended at 24 Ill. Reg. 9095, effective July 1, 2000)

**Section 2764.40 Institutional Procedures**

- a) The institution shall submit eligibility information for qualified applicants in sufficient time for ISAC to make award announcements.
- b) The institution shall submit a certification of eligibility for qualified applicants with its request for payment.
- c) ISAC shall disburse scholarship funds in two or three installments, depending on the number of terms financed by the scholarship, except that multiple disbursements shall not be required in cases where the applicant's eligibility is not determined until the final term of the academic year for which the scholarship is being awarded or when a student is attending only one term and the maximum award does not exceed the student's cost of attendance.
- d) Funds shall be remitted by ISAC to institutions on behalf of the recipient(s).
- e) Upon receipt of scholarship funds, the institution shall verify the recipient's enrollment status for the term for which the award was intended. If enrolled, the institution may credit the scholarship funds to the recipient's account for expenses due and payable. The balance of the disbursement shall be released to the recipient.
- f) Upon receipt of the scholarship funds, if the recipient has withdrawn from enrollment for the term(s) for which the award was intended, the institution shall return the total amount of the scholarship to ISAC.

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- g) Scholarship Amount
- 1) DeBolt Teacher Shortage Scholarships are applicable only toward tuition, fees and room and board charges or commuter allowances, if applicable.
  - 2) The annual scholarship amount shall be computed by the institution and be the lesser of:
    - A) tuition and fees plus room and board expenses charged by the institution;
    - B) tuition and fees plus the institution's standard cost of living allowance for students living off-campus; or
    - C) \$5000.
  - 3) The total amount of DeBolt Teacher Shortage Scholarship assistance awarded to a qualified applicant in a given academic year, when added to the other financial aid available to the qualified applicant for that year, cannot exceed the cost of attendance.
  - 4) A qualified applicant may receive grant assistance under the Monetary Award Program only up to the amount by which the qualified applicant's cost of attendance exceeds the amount of the DeBolt Teacher Shortage Scholarship.

(Source: Amended at 22 Ill. Reg. 11043, effective July 1, 1998)