

Part 2: “Supporting A Diverse Staff: Loans for Aspiring Educators” Essay

Enclose an essay describing yourself using at least 500 words. Include:

- *The skills or strengths you have that would contribute to your success in working with students
- *Your experience working with diverse ethnicities and low economic populations
- *Why you would be an effective teacher
- *Grade level and subject area you would like to teach and why
- * Why you should be considered for this scholarship program including your ties to this community and how you would contribute here if employed by USD 475.

Part 3: Letters of Reference (2)

Letters from two persons such as employers, instructors, clergy, coaches or others who can speak to your character and skills are required. These letters are to be emailed directly from the reference to the Geary Community Schools Foundation at gcsf@usd475.org. References may be contacted for further information.

Part 4: College Transcript(s)

Official transcripts may be required at a later point. For this application, please submit a copy of your most recent college transcript from each institution attended. Have the institution send them electronically to the Geary Community Schools Foundation at gcsf@usd475.org.

Print Your Name as it appears on your transcript

Part 5: ATTESTATION OF ELIGIBILITY

The “Supporting A Diverse Staff: Loans for Aspiring Educators” program provides financial assistance in the form of a forgivable loan to individuals selected to participate in the Program who teach in Geary County USD 475. The purpose of providing this financial assistance is to allow Program participants to complete their undergraduate degree in education, with the goal of receiving their teacher licensure and working as a teacher in the Geary County Public Schools. However, the Kansas State Board of Education regulations provide that individuals who have been convicted of, or pled guilty to, any act punishable as a felony may not be certified to teach. As a result, the “Supporting A Diverse Staff: Loans for Aspiring Educators” program requires each applicant and participant to read and complete the following Attestation of Eligibility each year before receiving financial assistance from the Program.

The Kansas Register, Vol. 19, No. 18, May 4, 2000, Article 22 – Professional Practices Commission, states the following:

91-22-1a. Denial, suspension, or revocation of license; public censure; grounds; report. Any license issued by the state board may be suspended or revoked, or the license holder may be publicly censured by the state board for misconduct or other just cause, including any of the following:

- (1) Conviction of any crime punishable as a felony;
- (2) conviction of any crime involving a minor;
- (3) conviction of any misdemeanor involving theft;
- (4) conviction of any misdemeanor involving drug-related conduct;
- (5) conviction of any act defined in any section of article 36 of chapter 21 of the Kansas statutes annotated;
- (6) conviction of an attempt under K.S.A. 21-3301, and amendments hereto, to commit any act specified in this subsection;
- (7) commission or omission of any act that injures the health or welfare of a minor through physical or sexual abuse or exploitation;
- (8) engaging in any sexual activity with a student;
- (9) breach of an employment contract with an education agency by abandonment of the position;
- (10) conduct resulting in a finding of contempt.

The Professional Practices Commission has interpreted the above regulation to mean: the board may deny, suspend or revoke a certificate if the applicant for licensure has been convicted of a crime involving (1) dishonesty, (2) a controlled substance, or (3) a child. The commission may take action if an applicant has entered into a criminal diversion agreement after having been charged with such a criminal act. The commission has also interpreted the regulation to mean that disciplinary action may be taken in situations where there is no criminal conviction, if improper conduct is involved.

I have read and understood the above information.

I, _____, attest to the Geary Community Schools Foundation that I have not committed any of the above-referenced acts which could result in the denial, suspension or revocation of a certificate. If I am unable or unwilling to receive my teacher licensure and/or to work as a teacher in the Geary County Public Schools, I understand and agree that I will be required to repay any and all financial assistance that I have received from the "Supporting A Diverse Staff: Loans for Aspiring Teachers Program".

Signature

Date

Email completed application to gcsf@usd475.org no later than April 1.

Financial Support

Terms of Loan Forgiveness

Years Teaching	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Loan Amount	25% of loan forgiven	35% of loan forgiven	100% of loan forgiven

Loan Cancellation or Discharge

“Cancellation” or “Discharge” refers to canceling the loan agreement for unusual and unpredicted circumstances. Circumstances justifying cancellation or discharge are expected to occur infrequently and will be approved by the Geary Community School Foundation (GCSF) on a case by case basis. Students who wish to request cancellation of the loan amount may submit a written request to the GCSF Forgivable Student Loan Committee describing the circumstances. The Committee may choose to initiate the process of considering cancellation or discharge.

Terms of Default

If the loan recipient fails to meet terms of the GCSF, the recipient will be considered in DEFAULT and will then be responsible for repayment of the balance of the loan plus interest equal to 1% above the prime lending rate at the time the loan was initiated using the prime rate according to the Wall Street Journal, plus attorney fees incurred by the Geary Community Schools Foundation. The GCSF may agree to a payment plan for repayment in case of default.

Failure to maintain continuous enrollment in the preparation program will be considered a default whether the result of 1) lack of attendance (unless permission to pause is approved by the GCSF OR changing a major outside of education. If the loan recipient selects a major outside of education before graduation from the teacher preparation program, this will be considered a default. The full amount of loans received plus interest as described above will be due and payable within a length of time equal to the number of months since the loan amount was paid to the college or university.

Loss of “Student in Good Standing” status—Students who fail to remain in good standing in their program will not be eligible for loan renewal. The GCSF may agree to a semester opportunity (without loan) to regain good standing and establish loan eligibility. After two semesters without good standing status, the forgivable loan will be in default. The full amount of loans received plus interest as described above will be due and payable within a length of time equal to the number of months the loan amount was used.

If the student does not teach in USD 475 under the terms described, the full amount of the loan must be repaid to the GCSF. The full total amount of loans received plus interest as described above will be due and payable within a length of time equal to the number of months the loan amount was used.

Disclaimer

Recipients cannot be guaranteed employment by USD 475, although they will be guaranteed an interview. A stringent selection process and monitoring system will minimize the possibility of funding candidates who do not demonstrate the capability of meeting USD 475 teacher standards. The loan contracts will include a repayment obligation clause, which will be activated for any recipient who fails to complete the course of study or who does not teach in Geary County Schools after graduation if offered employment.