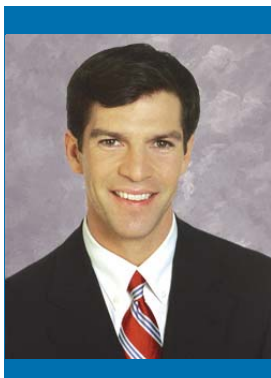


Committed Teachers, Better Schools

"The Missouri Teaching Fellows Program is one of many tools I've been working on to help improve Missouri's education system.



I will continue to advance programs that attract great teachers and produce great students."

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff Smith".

For More Information Contact:

Missouri Dept. of Higher Education
3515 Amazonas Drive
Jefferson City, MO 65109

Phone: (800) 473-6757
(Press Option #4)

On the Web:
[http://www.dhe.mo.gov/
moteachingfellows.shtml](http://www.dhe.mo.gov/moteachingfellows.shtml)

State Senator Jeff Smith
201 W Capitol Ave Rm 425
Jefferson City MO 65101

Missouri Teaching Fellows Program



A Guide For High School Counselors

PRESORTED STANDARD
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PAID
Jefferson City, MO 65101
Permit No. 220

Dear High School Counselor:

The purpose of this brochure is to introduce you and your high school students to the Missouri Teaching Fellows Program — an innovative educational plan I helped pass through the Missouri Legislature in 2007 that encourages and rewards talented young teachers who agree to start their careers in struggling school districts around the state, including the St. Louis Public School District (SLPS).

Our aim is to induce the best and brightest high school students to become teachers in Missouri's low-income communities by offering them substantial assistance in paying back their student loans. Eligible participants agree to attend a Missouri college to become a teacher, maintain good grades, and commit to teaching in an unaccredited school for five years. By doing so, students can receive up to \$5,000 per year in "forgiven," or reduced, student loans.

By offering young educators incentives to teach in schools where the need for more qualified teachers is greatest, we can strengthen our educators, improve student achievement and make a powerful impact on the quality of education in Missouri schools.

I hope you will join me in my efforts to share the many benefits of the Missouri Teaching Fellows Program — a program modeled after the highly successful Teach for America program.

I want to personally thank you for your dedication and commitment to assisting and supporting students with their educational needs and goals.

— 

What is the Missouri Teaching Fellows Program?

The Missouri Teaching Fellows Program is a forgivable loan program for eligible high school students who enter teaching programs in Missouri colleges and agree to teach in unaccredited Missouri public schools as they start their teaching careers.

Upon high school graduation, qualified students who participate in the program agree to:

- Attend a teacher training program at a Missouri higher education institution.
- Maintain a 3.0 or higher grade point average.
- Sign a contract to teach in an unaccredited school district for five years following college graduation.

In return for their program participation, qualifying teachers' student loans are forgiven by up to \$5,000 per year at the conclusion of the first four teaching years. Teachers without student loans receive a yearly stipend of up to \$5,000 per year, and all applicants receive a \$1,000 stipend at the conclusion of the fifth year.

Who Can Qualify?

High school students interested in participating in the Missouri Teaching Fellows Program are required to have:

- High school cumulative grade point averages ranking in the top 10 percentile in their graduating class and scores in the top 20 percentile on either the ACT or SAT test; or,
- High school cumulative grade point averages ranking in the top 20 percentile in their graduating class and scores in the top 10 percentile of the ACT or SAT test.

If the number of applicants exceeds the number of scholarships or money available, priority will be given to applicants with the highest high school grade point averages and highest ACT and SAT scores.

How Do Students Apply?

Interested students should visit the Missouri Department of Higher Education website (www.dhe.mo.gov) to read more about the program and to request application materials.