



## **Excellence in Teaching Act Forgivable Loan Programs 2024-25 Year-end Report**

**December 5, 2025**

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## **Excellence in Teaching Act (ETA) Forgivable Loan Programs**

In April 2009, the Nebraska Legislature approved LB547, revising the Attracting Excellence to Teaching Program created in 2006 to become the Excellence in Teaching Act and granting the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) and the State Board of Education the authority to adopt and promulgate rules and regulations to carry out the Act, which included the Attracting Excellence to Teaching Program and the Enhancing Excellence in Teaching Program.

LB705 (2023) brought major changes to the Excellence in Teaching Act. Foremost, LB705 moved responsibility for the Excellence in Teaching Act programs from NDE to the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education (CCPE) effective July 1, 2024 (Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 85-3101 to 85-3115). In addition, LB705 changed the allocation of funds from the Excellence in Teaching Cash Fund so that up to \$500,000 is to be used for students eligible for the Attracting Excellence to Teaching Program who are enrolled in student teaching semesters (clarified in LB1284 (2024)); and remaining funds continue to be allocated up to \$400,000 for the Attracting Excellence to Teaching Program and \$800,000 for the Enhancing Excellence in Teaching Program, with excess funds evenly divided between the two. The new allocations are reflected in the 2024-25 awards.

To qualify for the Attracting Excellence to Teaching Program (AETP), the student must be enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate teacher education program at a Nebraska institution, working towards their initial teaching certificate to teach in Nebraska. Eligible students may apply on an annual basis for an AETP loan in the amount of \$3,000 for up to five consecutive years. To receive the forgivable loan, the student must agree to complete their teacher education program and commit to becoming certified and teaching full-time in Nebraska. If the student meets the loan forgiveness obligations, loans will be forgiven, beginning after the first two years of full-time teaching, in an amount up to \$3,000 for each year of teaching or in an amount up to \$6,000 for each year of teaching if the student teaches in a school district that has been classified as very sparse or in a school building in which at least 40% of the students qualify for the poverty factor.

To qualify for the Attracting Excellence to Teaching Program - Student Teaching (AETP-ST), the student must be enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate teacher education program at a Nebraska institution, working towards their initial teaching certificate to teach in Nebraska and fulfilling their student teaching requirement within the award year. Eligible students may apply for an AETP-ST loan in an amount of \$3,000 that would be awarded during their student teaching semester. To receive the forgivable loan, the student must agree to complete their teacher education program, their semester of student teaching, and commit to becoming certified and teaching full-time in Nebraska. If the student meets the loan forgiveness obligations, loans will be forgiven, beginning after the first two years of full-time teaching, in an amount up to \$3,000 for each year of teaching or in an amount up to \$6,000 for each year of teaching if the student teaches in a school district that has been classified as very sparse or in a school building in which at least 40% of the students qualify for the poverty factor.

The Enhancing Excellence in Teaching Program (EETP) is for Nebraska teachers who are enrolled in an eligible graduate program at a Nebraska institution. Recipients of the EETP forgivable loan receive \$175 per credit hour, up to \$3,000 for the award year. If the student meets the loan forgiveness obligations, beginning after the first two years of full-time teaching, loans will be forgiven pursuant to the individuals' signed contract. EETP recipients must fulfill the requirement of teaching full-time at a Nebraska school for three consecutive years following the graduation of the graduate program to be forgiven \$1,500. Beginning with the fourth consecutive year of teaching full-time in Nebraska, for each additional year of teaching, recipients will receive \$1,000 in forgiveness, unless they work at a low-income school or very sparse district, they will receive \$3,000 in forgiveness.

There are three tables provided showing a list of institutions that had students awarded one of the three ETA programs, the number of students awarded at each institution, and the total amount of funds awarded at each institution.

## Attracting Excellence in Teaching Program (AETP) 2024-2025 Awards

| <b>Institution</b>                | <b>Number of<br/>Awardees</b> | <b>Amount Awarded<br/>(\$3,000 per student)</b> |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| Chadron State College             | 8                             | \$24,000  |
| College of St. Mary               | 4                             | \$12,000  |
| Concordia University              | 5                             | \$15,000  |
| Creighton University              | 2                             | \$6,000   |
| Doane University                  | 6                             | \$18,000  |
| Hastings College                  | 2                             | \$6,000   |
| Midland University                | 4                             | \$12,000  |
| Nebraska Wesleyan University      | 5                             | \$15,000  |
| Peru State College                | 3                             | \$9,000   |
| Union Adventist University        | 0                             | \$0   |
| University of Nebraska - Lincoln  | 36                            | \$108,000                                       |
| University of Nebraska at Omaha   | 24                            | \$72,000  |
| University of Nebraska at Kearney | 14                            | \$42,000  |
| Wayne State College               | 10                            | \$30,000  |
| York University                   | 1                             | \$3,000   |
|                                   |                               | Total: \$372,000                                |

Note: Institutions with a zero in any of the columns were initially allocated funds that were not awarded.

## Attracting Excellence in Teaching – Student Teaching Program (AETP-ST) 2024-2025 Awards

| Institution                       | Number of Awardees | Amount Awarded (\$3,000 per student) |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Chadron State College             | 0                  | \$0                                  |
| College of St. Mary               | 4                  | \$12,000                             |
| Concordia University              | 0                  | \$0                                  |
| Creighton University              | 0                  | \$0                                  |
| Doane University                  | 6                  | \$18,000                             |
| Hastings College                  | 4                  | \$12,000                             |
| Midland University                | 0                  | \$0                                  |
| Nebraska Wesleyan University      | 5                  | \$15,000                             |
| Peru State College                | 4                  | \$12,000                             |
| University of Nebraska - Lincoln  | 15                 | \$45,000                             |
| University of Nebraska at Omaha   | 11                 | \$33,000                             |
| University of Nebraska at Kearney | 21                 | \$63,000                             |
| Wayne State College               | 17                 | \$51,000                             |
| York University                   | 0                  | \$0                                  |
|                                   |                    | Total: \$261,000                     |

Note: Institutions with a zero in any of the columns were initially allocated funds that were not awarded.

## Enhancing Excellence in Teaching Program (EETP) 2024-2025 Awards

| <b>Institution</b>                | <b>Number of Awardees</b> | <b>Amount Awarded (\$175 per credit hour up to \$3,000 per student)</b> |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|---|
| Chadron State College             | 19                        | \$35,375  |
| College of St. Mary               | 1                         | \$2,100   |
| Concordia University              | 53                        | \$117,225   |
| Creighton University              | 5                         | \$12,300  |
| Doane University                  | 57                        | \$106,775   |
| Hastings College                  | 0                         | \$0   |
| Midland University                | 2                         | \$5,075   |
| Nebraska Wesleyan University      | 0                         | \$0   |
| Peru State College                | 35                        | \$81,900  |
| University of Nebraska - Lincoln  | 39                        | \$74,925  |
| University of Nebraska at Omaha   | 62                        | \$127,950   |
| University of Nebraska at Kearney | 65                        | \$122,750   |
| Wayne State College               | 41                        | \$89,200  |
| York University                   | 10                        | \$27,150  |
|                                   |                           | Total: \$802,725  |

Note: Institutions with a zero in any of the columns were initially allocated funds that were not awarded.