

period during which an individual enrolled in the teacher preparation program on a full-time basis, excluding the summer period, would have completed the same course of study.

(b) *Calculation of period needed to teach to meet the service obligation.* (1) The period of the scholarship recipient's service obligation is the period of the individual's receipt of scholarship assistance as provided in paragraph (a) of this section.

(2) The Secretary calculates the period that a scholarship recipient must teach in a high-need school of a high-need LEA in order to fulfill his or her service obligation by—

(i) Comparing the period in which the recipient received a scholarship as provided in paragraph (a) of this section with the information provided by the high-need LEA under §§ 611.46 and 611.47 on the period the recipient has taught in one of its high-need schools; and

(ii) Adjusting the period in which the recipient has taught in a high-need school to reflect the individual's employment, if any, as a teacher on a part-time basis relative to classroom teachers the LEA employs on a full-time basis under the LEA's standard yearly contract (excluding any summer or intersession period).

(c) The Secretary adjusts the period of a scholarship recipient's service obligation as provided in paragraph (b) of this section to reflect information the high-need LEA provides under §§ 611.46 and 611.47 that the scholarship recipient also has taught in a high-need school in a summer or intersession period.

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(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1024(e))

§ 611.43 What are the consequences of a scholarship recipient's failure to meet the service obligation?

(a) *Obligation to repay: General.* (1) A scholarship recipient who does not fulfill his or her service obligation must—

(i) Repay the Department the full amount of the scholarship, including the principal balance, accrued interest, and any collection costs charged under paragraphs (c) and (d) of this section; or

(ii) Be discharged of any repayment obligation as provided in § 611.45.

(2) Unless the service obligation is deferred as provided in § 611.44 or the repayment requirement is discharged, the obligation to repay the amount provided in paragraph (a)(1) of this section begins six months after the date the recipient—

(i) Completes the teacher training program without beginning to teach in a high-need school of a high-need LEA; or

(ii) Is no longer enrolled in the teacher training program.

(3) The Secretary determines whether a scholarship recipient has fulfilled the service obligation on the basis of information that the Department receives as provided in §§ 611.46 and 611.47.

(b) *Obligation to Repay: Partial performance of the service obligation.* (1) A scholarship recipient who teaches in a high-need school of a high-need school district for less than the period of his or her service obligation must repay—

(i) The amount of the scholarship that is proportional to the unmet portion of the service obligation;

(ii) Interest that accrues on this portion of the scholarship beginning six months after the recipient's graduation from the teacher preparation program; and

(iii) Costs of collection, if any.

(2) Unless the service obligation is deferred or the repayment requirement is discharged, the obligation to repay the amount provided in paragraph (b)(1) of this section begins six months after the date the recipient is no longer employed as a teacher in a high-need school of a high-need LEA.

(c) *Availability of payment schedule.* (1) Upon request to the Secretary, the scholarship recipient may repay the scholarship and accrued interest according to a payment schedule that the Secretary establishes.

(2) A payment schedule must permit the full amount of the scholarship and accrued interest to be repaid within ten years. The minimum monthly payment is \$50 unless a larger monthly payment is needed to enable the full amount that is due to be paid within this timeframe.

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(d) *Interest.* In accordance with 31 U.S.C. 3717 and 34 CFR part 30, the Secretary charges interest on the unpaid balance that the scholarship recipient owes. However, except as provided in §611.44(d), the Secretary does not charge interest for the period of time that precedes the date on which the scholarship recipient is required to begin repayment.

(e) *Failure to meet requirements.* A scholarship recipient's failure to satisfy the requirements of §§611.42-611.48 in a timely manner results in the recipient being—

- (1) In non-compliance with the terms of the scholarship;
- (2) Liable for repayment of the scholarship and accrued interest; and
- (3) Subject to collection action.

(f) *Action by reason of default.* The Secretary may take any action authorized by law to collect the amount of scholarship, accrued interest and collection costs, if any, on which a scholarship recipient obligated to repay under this section has defaulted. This action includes, but is not limited to, filing a lawsuit against the recipient, reporting the default to national credit bureaus, and requesting the Internal Revenue Service to offset the recipient's Federal income tax refund.

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(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1024(e))

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§611.44 Under what circumstances may the Secretary defer a scholarship recipient's service obligation?

(a) Upon written request, the Secretary may defer a service obligation for a scholarship recipient who—

- (1) Has not begun teaching in a high-need school of a high-need LEA as required by §611.41(a); or
- (2) Has begun teaching in a high-need school of a high-need LEA, and who requests the deferment within six months of the date he or she no longer teaches in this school.

(b) To obtain a deferment of the service obligation, the recipient must provide the Secretary satisfactory information of one or more of the following circumstances:

(1) Serious physical or mental disability that prevents or substantially impairs the scholarship recipient's employability as a teacher.

(2) The scholarship recipient's inability, despite due diligence (for reasons that may include the failure to pass a required teacher certification or licensure examination), to secure employment as a teacher in a high-need school of a high-need school LEA.

(3) Membership in the armed forces of the United States on active duty for a period not to exceed three years.

(4) Other extraordinary circumstances that the Secretary accepts.

(c) Unless the Secretary determines otherwise—

(1) A scholarship recipient must apply to renew a deferment of the service obligation on a yearly basis; and

(2) The recipient has 60 days from the end of the deferment period to begin teaching in a high-need school of a high-need LEA or become liable for repayment of the scholarship, any accrued interest, and any costs of collection.

(d)(1) As provided in §611.43(a)(2), during periods for which the Secretary defers a scholarship recipient's service obligation, the scholarship recipient does not have an obligation to repay the scholarship. However, interest continues to accrue on the amount of the scholarship.

(2) If the scholarship recipient fulfills his or her service obligation after the end of the deferment, the Secretary waives the obligation to repay accrued interest.

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(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1024(e))

§611.45 Under what circumstances does the Secretary discharge a scholarship recipient's obligation to repay for failure to meet the service obligation?

(a) The Secretary discharges the obligation of a scholarship recipient to repay the scholarship, interest, and any costs for failure to meet the service obligation based on information acceptable to the Secretary of—

- (1) The recipient's death; or
- (2) The total and permanent physical or mental disability of the recipient