



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
OFFICE OF LEGISLATION AND CONGRESSIONAL AFFAIRS

March 12, 2019

The Honorable Robert C. “Bobby” Scott  
Chairman  
Committee on Education and Labor  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Scott:

Thank you for your inquiry regarding TEACH Grants. I am pleased to respond on behalf of Secretary DeVos.

In response to question (1), as of February 8, 2019, there have been approximately 21,000 TEACH Grant recipients who have satisfied the program requirements. Additionally, there are 70,000 TEACH Grant recipients who have submitted documentation demonstrating some period of qualified teaching but have not yet submitted documentation to show that they have satisfied the program requirements.

In response to question (2), as of February 8, 2019, there have been approximately 94,000 TEACH Grant recipients, with a combined total of approximately 163,000 TEACH Grants, that have had their grants converted to loans. During the period from 2013-2018, the top three reasons for TEACH Grant conversions are as follows: 1) no response from the TEACH Grant recipient to certification requests; 2) a voluntary request for conversion from the TEACH Grant recipient; and 3) a late response from the TEACH Grant recipient to certification requests.

In response to question (3), the 16,000 grantees who received the email from the U.S. Department of Education were selected because they previously had their TEACH Grants converted to loans as a result of a failure to meet the annual certification requirement, but, who otherwise may have met—or are meeting—the service requirements and who have completed or will likely complete the four-year service requirement within eight years of graduating or withdrawing from the school at which they received the TEACH Grants.

In response to question (4), the Department has provided FedLoan Servicing with protocols that ensure TEACH Grant recipients who had their grants converted to loans and who can certify past periods of qualifying teaching service, or who intend to complete qualifying teaching service, will have their loans converted to TEACH Grants, provided their service obligation requirements were met or can be met within the statutory eight-year service obligation period.

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The Department appreciates the opportunity to address your questions and to clarify any areas of concern. If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office at 202-401-0020.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'P. Oppenheim', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Peter L. Oppenheim  
Assistant Secretary for Legislation and Congressional Affairs