Golden State Teacher Grant Program

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Are you a Rivet School graduate seeking financial support for your teaching credential program? The Golden State Teacher Grant (GSTG) Program awards up to $20,000 to students currently enrolled in a teaching credential program approved by the CTC and working towards earning their preliminary teaching credential. The award you receive depends on the program and the cohort.

Am I eligible?

You must meet the following eligibility criteria to apply:

- Be currently enrolled in, or accepted for enrollment in, a California-based professional preparation program approved by the CTC. You can view a list of approved institutions and programs here. Note: intern credential programs are not eligible.
- Be working towards your special education preliminary teaching credential.
- Submit a FAFSA or CADAA.

What is the service commitment?

Students must:

- Complete their program and obtain their credential within 3 years from the first distribution of the GSTG funds.
- Commit to working as a teacher, school social worker, school counselor, school psychologist, or child welfare & attendance official at a California priority school for 4 years within 8 years of completing their professional preparation program (students must submit an annual Employment Verification Form as proof).

What is a priority school?

Priority schools are California public schools with more than 55% of students classified as English Learners, eligible for free and reduced price meals, or current foster youth. They are not the same as schools funded by Title I. You can view a list of the 2026-27 GSTG priority schools here (updated by April 15th annually).

How do I apply?

- Step 1: Submit a FAFSA or CADAA.
- Step 2: Submit a GSTG application.

What are my next steps?

Once you submit a GSTG application, you will receive a confirmation email. Your institution will verify your eligibility and determine your award amount.

After your school verifies your eligibility, you will be asked to sign your Service Agreement (SA). The SA outlines the program requirements, service commitment, and repayment obligation of the grant.

Once the SA is signed, your institution may request payment(s). Unless otherwise requested, your grant will be evenly dispersed among all terms you are enrolled during the academic year and mailed to your institution for disbursement.

If you have any questions, email goldenstateteachers@csac.ca.gov.