



## Analysis

The teacher preparation affordability scholarship program may enhance efforts to recruit and retain students in teacher preparation programs. Historically, the debt to earnings ratio of individuals who go to college to become a teacher has resulted in challenges for teacher preparation programs to recruit students into teaching.

The Higher Education Department (HED) cites Section 9-25-1 et seq. NMSA 1978, which grants the department their general rulemaking authority. The department also cites Chapter 193, which created the new Teacher Preparation Affordability Act, modeled after the College Affordability Act, which is intended to diversify the teacher pipeline by providing need-based scholarships to students enrolled in a Public Education Department (PED)-approved teacher preparation program. Part 34 of 5.7 NMAC aligns with all provisions outlined in Chapter 193.

**Eligibility.** To be eligible for a teacher preparation affordability scholarship, the new rule would require eligible students to be residents of New Mexico as defined in 5.7.18.9 NMAC or be eligible for a nondiscrimination waiver as defined in 5.7.18.10 NMAC. See **Attachment 2, 5.7.18 NMAC, Residency for Tuition Purposes.** Eligible students would also be required to be enrolled at least half-time in a PED-approved teacher preparation program, have not completed credentials to be a licensed New Mexico teacher, and demonstrate financial need. Pursuant to the new rule, institutions of higher education would be required to prioritize scholarship awards for English learners (ELs), students who are racial or ethnic minorities historically underrepresented in New Mexico's teaching workforce, and students who have declared an intent to teach in a high-need teacher position as defined by PED.

Pursuant to 5.7.34 NMAC, ELs who are eligible for the teacher preparation affordability scholarship are identified as individuals "whose first or heritage language was not English."

**Scholarship Duration and Terms.** Consistent with the provisions outlined in Chapter 193, scholarship recipients would receive awards up to \$6,000 per academic year for no more than five academic years as long as the student maintains satisfactory academic progress or graduates from an eligible institution. Award recipients would be able to apply scholarship funds toward educational expenses including tuition, fees, books, course supplies, and living expenses.

The proposed new rule would define "returning adults" as those enrolling in an institution of higher education at any time later than the first semester following high school graduation or the award of a high-school equivalency credential.

**Program Administration.** Pursuant to 5.7.34 NMAC, institutions of higher education would be required to determine initial and continuing student eligibility for the teacher preparation affordability scholarship; distribute awards to qualifying students; and annually provide HED with financial aid data, including income reported on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, the number of students enrolled in the teacher preparation programs within the institution, and the percentage of teacher preparation program students classified as "returning adults" who are otherwise ineligible for state financial aid.

The proposed new rule would require HED to allocate funds to institutions of higher education based on a student need formula calculated according to the financial aid data institutions of higher education are required to provide.

The General Appropriation Act (GAA) of 2019 included a \$10 million general fund revenue transfer to the teacher preparation affordability scholarship fund. It does not appear the funds can be spent in FY20 because the fund is subject to legislative appropriation and the funds were not appropriated for expenditure. The GAA of 2019 did not include an appropriation from the fund to HED. It only included the transfer of general fund revenue into the fund.

**Termination of Scholarship.** Pursuant to Part 34 of 5.7 NMAC, an award recipient will have their scholarship terminated if they withdraw from the institution of higher education or teacher preparation program, do not maintain at least half-time enrollment, do not achieve satisfactory academic progress, or are in substantial noncompliance with the Teacher Preparation Affordability Act.



















**Pre-NMAC History:** The material in this part was derived from that previously filed with the State Records Center and Archives under:

BEF Rule 910, Residency for Tuition Purposes, filed 2/27/85;  
CHE Rule 910, Residency for Tuition Purposes, filed 3/8/90;  
CHE Rule 910, Residency for Tuition Purposes, filed 6/29/92;  
CHE Rule 910, Residency for Tuition Purposes, filed 12/21/94.

**History of Repealed Material:**

5.7.18 NMAC, Residency for Tuition Purposes, filed 8/1/2000, Repealed 8/30/2007.