



"After years of living abroad and working for the government, I had a wealth of job and life experience and wanted to put it to use in teaching. The Alternative Routes to Teacher Certification program was there for me at a time in my life when I could finally get my teaching certificate."

— Debra T.
CWU graduate

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Professional Educator Standards Board (PESB) programs are designed to help school districts recruit teachers in subject matter and geographic areas with a teacher shortage, as specified by the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

There are three programs:

- The Alternative Routes to Teaching program helps students obtain their initial Washington residency certificate through non-traditional academic programs.
- The Educator Retooling program assists certified teachers in adding endorsements in shortage areas such as math, science, special education, and bilingual education. Funding also assists unemployed Washington certified elementary education teachers in adding middle level math and science endorsements.
- The Para-Pipeline program assists employed classified instructional employees (paraprofessionals), with a minimum of three years of district experience, earn a Direct Transfer Agreement Math Education AA degree. Once an AA degree is earned, these individuals will participate in a two-year alternative route program at a participating university to obtain a residency certificate.



PROGRAM PURPOSE

In return for conditional scholarships (i.e. forgivable loans), participants agree to teach in Washington K-12 public schools in full-time, part-time, or substitute positions. The Professional Educator Standards Board determines the teacher shortage areas on which to focus recruitment each year.



BENEFITS TO STUDENTS

One year of program loans are forgiven for every two years of qualified teaching service.

In 2013-14, Alternative Routes

participants can receive an annual award of \$8,000; Educator Retooling participants can receive an annual award up to \$3,000; Para-Pipeline participants can receive an annual award of \$4,000.



BENEFITS TO THE STATE

The PESB Conditional Loan Scholarship Programs help the state meet K-12 educational needs by recruiting teachers in

subject areas where there is a current shortage of qualified instructors. Participants who fail to follow through on their qualified teaching service are required to repay their program loans—with interest and fees.

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

The Washington Professional Educator Standards Board administers the program. The Board selects the conditional loan scholarship recipients in conjunction with participating institutions: Central Washington University, City University, Pacific Lutheran University, Saint Martin's University, Seattle Pacific University, University of Washington, Western Washington University, and Seattle Central and Green River Community Colleges.

The Washington Student Achievement Council serves as the fiscal agent for the program. The Council disburses the conditional loan scholarships and tracks the completion of obligation through teaching service or repayment.



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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Washington's student financial aid programs are known collectively as Opportunity Pathways. The Washington Student Achievement Council administers these programs, helping tens of thousands of students earn college certificates and degrees annually.