



Teacher Education Loan and Currently Practicing Teacher (CPT) Grant Program Summary 2024 - 2025

The Association of Waldorf Schools of North America (AWSNA) is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to strengthen and support member Waldorf schools and teacher education institutes throughout North America. One aspect of this support is providing financial assistance to people enrolled in an AWSNA or WECAN-member institute teacher preparation program pursuing an initial Waldorf teaching certificate through our teacher education loan and currently practicing teacher (CPT) grant programs. These two programs are made possible by contributions to AWSNA through dues from member schools and by grants from various foundations.

Awards for the 2024-25 school year are \$900 per student for loans and \$750 per student for CPT grants in the currency of the institute country.

In addition, institutes may have limited additional funds for those in higher financial need.

Note, the awards are proportional for subject programs where they will receive $\frac{3}{5}$'s of the award: \$540 per student for loans and \$450 per student for CPT grants in the currency of the institute country.

Eligible Programs: Loans and CPT grants are applicable for AWSNA-member grades, high school and subject (music and world language) teacher training programs and WECAN-member early childhood teacher preparation programs.

Ineligible Programs: Foundation year (if separate from teacher training), EdD programs, healing arts, professional development, and renewal classes are not eligible for TELG funds.

1. Teacher Education Loans

This loan is for individuals intending to teach in an AWSNA or WECAN-member school, and who are legally authorized to work in North America at the time of application. Loans are interest-free during enrollment in the teacher preparation program and while teaching $\frac{3}{4}$ to full-time in an AWSNA or WECAN-member school.

In exchange for receiving the loan, applicants must agree to the following:

- a. State that they intend to work as a three-quarter to full-time teacher in an AWSNA or WECAN-member school for at least three consecutive years, immediately following graduation from the program. For each year teaching at or above 75% FTE at a qualifying member school, one-third of the loan will be forgiven.

Applicants who begin teaching prior to graduation may have these years of teaching retroactively applied towards the three years of service, as long as one of the three years occurs in the year immediately following graduation.

- b. If loan recipients do not meet the requirements of 1.a., as stated above, or should they fail to complete the teacher training or withdraw from the teacher training, the loan must be repaid **in full** at 1% interest per month over a 12-month payment plan as described in the Teacher Education Fund loan contract.
- c. Partial teaching service will be considered for forgiveness. All outstanding years of service will convert to a loan.

2. **Currently Practicing Teacher (CPT) Grants**

This grant is for individuals already teaching in AWSNA or WECAN-member schools as they pursue their training. AWSNA provides grants toward tuition, and schools are asked to confirm that the teacher is in good standing and also to consider pledging funds towards the training of their teacher(s). Where the combined total of the AWSNA grant and school contribution does not reach 100% of tuition, applicants may also apply for a teacher education loan with the approval of the teacher education institute.

Application for the CPT grant must be accompanied by a letter from the school where the applicant teaches, specifying the amount of funds the school will commit (if any). The school sends their pledge directly to the institute (not the student).

How and When to Apply for the Loans and CPT Grants

- Applicants apply directly through the *Waldorf teacher education institute they are attending*. Contact the institute for the link to their online application and deadline information. Your application will be reviewed by the institute and if accepted, the institute will determine the amount awarded.
- Funds are distributed directly to the institute as tuition payments on a yearly basis based on the institute's schedule.
- Loans and grants must be applied for annually and are awarded each year of teacher training.
- Any scholarship funds may be taxable income, and the student may wish to consult with an accountant or tax professional.

AWSNA is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination and equal opportunity without regard to race, color, religious creed, ancestry, age, gender, marital status, national origin, disability or handicap, protected genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation or any other factor protected by law.