



New England Troops to Teachers  
P.O. Box 44, Grafton, MA 01519  
Phone/Fax: (888) 463-6488  
nettt@maine.edu  
www.newenglandttt.org

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Dear Veterans' Service Officer,

As the recently hired Coordinator of the New England Troops to Teachers program, I would like to take this opportunity to reintroduce you to our program.

Background: Troops to Teachers is a national program, funded by the U.S. Department of Education and administered by the Department of Defense through an agency called the Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support (DANTES). The program helps eligible military personnel begin new careers as teachers in K-12 public schools where their skills, knowledge and experience are needed most. The program began in 1994 as part of the No Child Left Behind Act.

Benefits: Program benefits include Counseling and Referral Services and Financial Assistance that may come in the form of a \$5,000 stipend to assist with teacher certification program costs or a \$10,000 bonus for those Servicemembers or Veterans who agree to teach in high needs schools. The maximum amount of money that may be collected by a program participant is \$10,000. Participants accepting a stipend or bonus are obligated to teach for three years in a "high needs" school, as defined by law.

Eligibility: For Counseling and Referral Services: six or more years of credible Active or Selected Reserve service towards retirement. For Financial Assistance: six or more years of credible Active service or 10 or more years of Selected Reserve service and agree to serve an additional three years in the Selected Reserve. The last period of service must be honorable.

Education Requirements: Must hold a Baccalaureate or advanced degree from an accredited institution at the time of registration and be enrolled in a teacher certification program or be licensed as a teacher for referral in that subject - or - have the equivalent of one year of college with six years of work experience in a vocational or technical field or meet state requirements for vocational/technical teacher referral.

Registration: Our "Participant Datasheet" and a link to the "DANTES Online Registration" process can be found at <http://www.newenglandttt.org>.

PROUD TO SERVE AGAIN

Pending Legislation: The Post-9/11 Troops to Teachers Enhancement Act (H.R. 3943 and S. 1932) was introduced in the fall of 2009 and has over 114 co-sponsors in the House and 5 in the Senate. We are strongly encouraging all of our participants and supporters of the program to contact their elected officials to voice their support for this important bill.

Passage of this bill would significantly enhance the current program in the following three ways:

1. Makes the program more accessible to younger veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan by reducing the length of service requirements. Any servicemember who has served at least 90 continuous days since Sept. 11, 2001 would be eligible for participation in Troops to Teachers. For those who have not served 90 days since 9/11, the bill reduces the active duty service requirement from six years to four years.
2. Allows more participants to qualify for financial assistance for teacher certification and training. The bill extends the eligibility for the \$5,000 stipend to any participant who agrees to teach for three years in any school in a district that receives Title I funds.
3. Creates an advisory board charged with improving awareness of the program, increasing participation, and ensuring that the program meets the needs of our schools and our veterans.

Contact Information:

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Regional Website: <http://www.newenglandttt.org>  
National Website: <http://www.proudtoserveagain.com>

As of the close of 2009, over 12,000 Troops to Teachers participants have answered this additional call to duty and are now teaching in K-12 public schools nationwide. My staff and I look forward to assisting your clients as they transition to an initial or second career as teachers. We appreciate your assistance in ensuring all interested Servicemembers and Veterans are aware of this excellent opportunity to serve their communities.

Sincerely,

/S/

Troy M. Gipps  
Coordinator  
New England Troops to Teachers