EETP Definitions

The following definitions are for the purpose of the **Enhancing Excellence in Teaching Program**. Questions may be directed to Karen Buller at 402-471-4837 or karen.buller@nebraska.gov.

***Eligible Graduate Program*:** For purposes of the Enhancing Excellence in Teaching Program, an eligible graduate program is defined as a course of study offered by an eligible institution which results in obtaining a graduate degree or a graduate course of study leading to a 92 NAC 24 Certificate Endorsement in a shortage area specified by the State Board of Education.

PLEASE NOTE: Graduate programs resulting in obtaining an Administrative or Special Services Certificate are NOT eligible for the Enhancing Excellence Loan Program.

***Eligible Institution*:** A not-for-profit college or university which (a) is located in Nebraska, (b) is accredited by a regional accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of Education as determined to be acceptable by the Board, and (c) has an approved teacher education program. Institutions that meet these criteria and offer eligible graduate programs:

Chadron State College	Nebraska Wesleyan University
College of Saint Mary	Peru State College
Concordia University	University of Nebraska at Kearney
Creighton University	University of Nebraska – Lincoln
Doane College	University of Nebraska at Omaha
Grace University	Wayne State College
Midland University	York College

***Eligible Student*:** An individual who meets the following criteria:

- Is employed as a full-time teacher in an approved or accredited school in Nebraska;
- Is enrolled in an eligible institution in an eligible graduate program;
- Is pursuing:
  - A graduate degree or added 92 NAC 24 Certificate Endorsement in a shortage area;
  - A graduate degree in curriculum and instruction;
  - A graduate degree in a subject area in which a secular teaching endorsement is already held; or
  - A graduate degree in a subject area, not considered a shortage area, that will result in an additional secular teaching endorsement which the superintendent of the school district or head administrator of a nonpublic school believes will be beneficial to the students of the school district or school;
- Is a resident Nebraska student;
- Agrees to complete the eligible graduate program and major on which the his/her eligibility for EETP funds were received; and
- Commits to teach in an accredited or approved public or private PK-12 school in Nebraska upon successful completion of the eligible graduate program for a time period equal to the number of years required for loan forgiveness.

Full-time Teacher: An individual holding a teaching certificate that is employed equivalent to 1.0 FTE under one or more teaching contracts with an approved or accredited Nebraska PK-12 school or Educational Service Unit throughout the course of a school year or a period of two consecutive school terms that are the equivalent of one school year (for example: one spring semester and the following fall semester).

Low Income School: A Nebraska school building that provides free meals to all students pursuant to the community eligibility provision, teaches in a school building in which at least forty percent of the students are poverty students as defined in section 79-1003, or teaches in an accredited or approved private school in Nebraska in which at least forty percent of the enrolled students qualified for free lunches as determined by the most recent data available from NDE.

Program of Study: Documentation that verifies enrollment in a graduate program and includes:

- Name of institution;
- Name of applicant;
- Graduate degree or 92 NAC 24 Certificate Endorsement program to be completed; and
- Coursework required to complete the program, including course numbers, names, credit hours and semester to be taken.

A Program of Study approved by the institution in which the applicant is enrolled must accompany the EETP Application for Funds upon submission to the institution.

Note: *If your degree program is not within your institution's educator preparation division, you must have your Program of Study signed by your degree advisor prior to submission with your application.*

Proof of Registration: A document that a student receives from the institution that confirms that the student is officially registered and includes information about the classes for which the individual has registered, number of credit hours, and the dates of the classes. Some institutions utilize online processes for registration. A printed or electronic copy of the online registration confirmation is acceptable.

Proof of Coursework Completion: A document that a student receives from the institution that confirms that the student completed the coursework for which funds were received. This will typically be a grade report/transcript. Some institutions utilize online systems for course completion/grade information. A printed or electronic copy of the online grade/transcript is acceptable.

Proof of Program Completion: A document that a student receives from the institution that confirms that the student completed the graduate program. An official transcript from the institution is required.

Resident Student: An applicant who is enrolled in an eligible state-funded institution and who meets the criteria detailed in State Statute §85-502 will be considered a resident student. If the applicant is enrolled in an eligible Nebraska private college or university, s/he will be considered eligible for EETP if s/he would be deemed a resident student if enrolled in a state-funded institution. State Statute §85-502 also provides specific information about State postsecondary educational institution residence requirements.

***Secular Teaching Endorsement*:** Teaching areas covered by teaching endorsements excluding Religious Education.

***Shortage Area*:** A secular field of teaching for which there is a designated teacher shortage, as determined by the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) at the time the borrower first receives funds pursuant to the program. A listing of the current shortage areas in Nebraska can be found on the Nebraska Teacher Shortage web page.

Shortage areas as defined by the U.S. Department of Education under the Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant will also be considered as qualifying shortage areas. A current listing of the shortage areas under the TEACH Grant is available from the US Department of Education web site at http://studentaid.ed.gov/PORTALSWebApp/students/english/TEACH.jsp.

***Very Sparse School District*:** A local system that meets the criteria in Section 79-1003 R.R.S. NDE determines the systems that meet these criteria on an annual basis.