

Financial Aid Guidelines for Educator Preparation Institutes (EPIs)

Federal Financial Aid

- EPI students pursuing competency-based teacher certification can be eligible for federal financial aid if institutions have amended their federal financial aid participation agreements.
- If you are not certain that your college has amended the financial aid agreement, work with your institutional financial aid director to accomplish this task. The Division of Community Colleges contact for EPIs on this issue is Melinda Milles, melinda.milles@fldoe.org.
- Students must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) in order to be eligible for many forms of financial aid.
- In general, EPI students get access to the same kinds of federal financial aid as all other students, including Pell grant and student loans.
- Some exceptions apply: for example, Pell grant program eligibility for EPI students requires that the institution cannot also offer a bachelor's degree in the same education program.
- Consult with your college financial aid director to learn more about federal financial aid streams available to EPI students and requirements for student eligibility.

State Financial Aid

- The types of state financial aid available to EPI students are limited.
- EPI students may qualify for the Florida Work Experience Program (FWEP) if they are enrolled at least half time and attending a participating institution.
- EPI students may qualify for the Florida Forgivable Loan Program if they become certified and teach in a critical shortage area. Awards are based on yearly service and are subject to available budget. Awards may also be prorated.
- Consult with your college financial aid director to learn more about state financial aid streams available to EPI students.