



## Quality Educator Loan Assistance Program Report

[§ 20-5-504, MCA](#), provides repayment for newly-hired educators in impacted schools. In 2025, HB 509 revised the quality educator loan forgiveness program to expand eligibility. It expands eligibility for the program to include all newly hired quality educators in Montana public schools. It establishes that newly hired quality educators in impacted schools have priority for receiving loan assistance payments and provides a process to prorate loan assistance payments if the appropriation is insufficient to fully fund the loan assistance payment for all eligible quality educators.

Applications for the 2025-26 school year are currently open through April 15, 2026. Approvals and payments (made directly to loan providers) will not be processed until the review process is complete for all applications, between June 15 and June 30, 2025. Letters to applicants will be sent at that time. [List of Impacted Schools.](#)

Historically, the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education reported an average distribution of funding between FY 2012 and FY 2017 of \$512,251 per year to an average of 178 applicants. No awards were distributed in FY 2018 and FY 2019 as the legislature did not provide any appropriation. In FY 2020 through FY 2023, the OPI distribute \$273,069, \$264,404, and \$453,596, \$420,289, respectively.

For Question, please contact: Christy Mock Stutz, Assistant Chief Program Officer at [christy.mock-stutz@mt.gov](mailto:christy.mock-stutz@mt.gov)

### **FY2024**

<i>Appropriation</i>	\$ 603,000
<i>Distributed</i>	\$ 247,000
<i>Remaining Appropriation</i>	\$ 356,000

### **Applicants (80)**

#### **Approved (62)**

<i>Year 1 (\$3,000 @ 23 Approved)</i>	\$ 69,000
<i>Year 2 (\$4,000 @ 17 Approved w/Adj_Loan Bal Less)</i>	\$ 68,000
<i>Year 3 (\$5,000 @ 22 Approved)</i>	\$ 110,000
<i>Year 4 (\$5,000 @ 5 - Paid By School District - \$25,000)</i>	

#### **Denied (13)**

### **FY2025**

<i>Appropriation</i>	\$ 500,000
<i>Distributed</i>	\$ 194,260
<i>Remaining Appropriation</i>	\$ 305,740

### **Applicants (120)**

#### **Approved (68)**

<i>Year 1 (\$3,000 @ 24 Approved)</i>	\$ 72,000
<i>Year 2 (\$4,000 @ 12 Approved)</i>	\$ 48,000
<i>Year 3 (\$5,000 @ 15 Approved w/Adj_Loan Bal Less)</i>	\$ 74,260
<i>Year 4 (\$5,000 @ 17 - Paid By School District - \$25,000)</i>	

#### **Denied (52)**