Proud to Serve Again

West Virginia
Continue to fulfill your duty to America by helping shape the future of the country you served to protect. Through the Troops to Teachers program, veterans like you have accepted the next great challenge, educating America’s youth.

Since 1994, Troops to Teachers has helped thousands of military personnel find rewarding new careers as teachers. Because of teacher shortages in critical subject areas like math, science, special education, technical careers, and foreign languages, students around the country are losing out on the opportunities that a good education can provide them. Your decision to serve again as an educator can help to make a difference in the lives of the students that need it most.

Every classroom deserves a leader who displays courage, wisdom, and the willingness to give selflessly to others. Your military service prepared you well for this role. You have demonstrated impeccable leadership skills and focused discipline throughout your career. You have served with honor and distinction. Now you can take those ideals and serve as a role model and instructor to our nation’s youth.

Bring your experience into the classroom and become a force for change in America.
If you have ever wondered how to translate your unique set of skills into a new career, Troops to Teachers can help. Troops to Teachers offers eligible military personnel the advice, resources, and tools they need to find meaningful work in education.

Troops to Teachers connects you to your state’s education department and helps you navigate the transition from military service to a career in education. A network of state/regional Troops to Teachers offices has been set up around the country to provide helpful services such as:

- Counseling and assistance regarding teacher certification processes
- Information about the different pathways to state certification
- Leads on employment opportunities
- Information on financial assistance

In addition to the state/regional offices, you can visit the central website, www.proudtoserveagain.com, for tips on résumé building, job search resources, advice about interviewing for a position, and much more. The website also includes a Self-Determination Eligibility Guide that helps you determine whether you are eligible to enroll in the program.
Financial Assistance Through Troops to Teachers

Troops to Teachers recognizes the importance of your commitment to serve again in our nation’s classrooms and your willingness to teach in the communities and schools that need you most.

Troops to Teachers offers financial incentives to teach in the public school system, kindergarten through twelfth grade, to eligible veterans and military personnel. A stipend of up to $5,000 is available to help with your teacher certification fees if you commit to teach for three years in a “high-need” school district. Alternatively, you may be eligible for a $10,000 bonus if you commit to teach for three years in a “high-need” school that serves a high percentage of students in need of the most help.
Our nation’s youth need you. They deserve a high quality education and to be taught by individuals with compassion, drive, integrity, and commitment. You have exemplified these qualities throughout your military service. You can choose to help lead our country’s children into a brighter future. Serve again. Become a teacher.
West Virginia is deeply rooted in its culture and history, featuring fantastic outdoor recreation opportunities, including whitewater rafting, rock climbing, fishing, and hunting. Come experience our romantic getaways, small-town gems, spectacular parks, and scenery unrivaled in its beauty.

From the wilderness of the great outdoors to the technologically advanced business centers of West Virginia, the country roads of the Mountain State lead to unique opportunities and pleasant destinations that you can be proud to call home.

The demand for teachers in West Virginia has never been greater. With many of our teachers reaching the age of retirement, opportunities for new educators are on the rise. The Troops to Teachers program is looking to replace these dedicated public servants with America’s finest. Patriotism is an important cornerstone of every mountaineer’s way of life and you can expect to meet many friendly folks who share and understand the many sacrifices you and your family have made to protect our nation. There is simply no better place to begin your educational career than right here in West Virginia.

Help educate and inspire the next generation of citizens.
Stefan Smolski, a research biologist before enlisting in the Service, served in various positions during his twenty-three-year military career, including posts as an intelligence officer and a Navy flight officer. Upon his retirement, Stefan decided to build on his bachelor’s degree in biology by completing forty-five hours of undergraduate work at Fairmont State University to earn his teaching certification. He has further developed as a professional by completing a master’s degree in secondary education at West Virginia University. Stefan taught general science and biology for eleven years in New Cumberland and is currently teaching biology in Taylor County.

“I could be working for a defense contractor making three times what I am making now, but I would only be a third as happy,” says Stefan. “I considered entering the Troops to Teachers program in other states, but my wife and I fell in love with West Virginia. I’m originally from California and it took me a while to get here, but I’m glad that I made the decision to live and teach in West Virginia.”
There are a variety of ways that an individual may attain a teaching certification. For Victoria Grogan, it was the traditional route via a bachelor’s degree in education. During her time in the Air National Guard, Victoria used her funds from the GI Bill to complete an approved teacher preparation program for mathematics at Concord University. Upon graduation, she registered with the Troops to Teachers program and began teaching at a high-need school. Today, she continues to serve her community as a full-time teacher in Mercer County and as a member of the West Virginia Air National Guard.

“I have experienced deployments, marriage, having a child, and now my husband is deployed too. These experiences have made me stronger and allowed me to push myself to gain a bachelor’s in mathematics for secondary education,” says Victoria. “I received my degree and began teaching at a low-income school in West Virginia. I am so happy that I have chosen this path and now have two very rewarding careers.”
Commit to Serve Again

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