

ILLINOIS TROOPS TO TEACHERS: THE BASICS

The Illinois Troops to Teachers Program can help eligible veterans with **at least 6 years of honorable service** transition from a military service background to K-12 public school teaching. The Illinois Troops to Teachers office provides:

- **Educational and teaching career advisement**
- **Information resources for earning state teacher certification**
- **Access to mentors, and our educators job-referral website**
- **Preparation for and referral to employment as an Illinois public school teacher**

Teaching in public schools is a profession highly compatible with the experience veterans receive in the military. Students follow a lesson plan, and with the guidance of a professional leader and role model, can exceed their subject area standards. Where else are the values of respect, duty, and courage so relevant, but in our public school classrooms?

Illinois Troops to Teachers can also provide financial assistance of \$5000 to eligible veterans enrolled in a certification program or a bonus of up to \$10,000 for teachers who serve a 3 year commitment in any high-needs school across the state. **Financial benefits are available to veterans in the following categories:**

- Retired Active Duty, Reserve, or National Guard (or within one year of retirement)
- Separated for physical disability on or after Jan. 8, 2002 and register no later than 4 years after separation
- Currently serving in Reserves with 10+ years of service and commit to serving an additional 3 years
- Have served six years on active duty and transition into the Reserve or National Guard for three years on or after Jan. 8, 2002 and within four years of separation

To teach a **vocational, technical or career area** in Illinois, veterans must have 60 semester hours from a recognized teacher education institution and 2000 hours of documented work experience in the skill area to be taught. In rare cases, school districts can hire vocational skill or career education teachers who don't have education credit hours, but instead have 8000 hours of documented work experience in a skill area. The following are examples of vocational, technical or career skill areas:

- Automotive Bodywork/Technology
- Building Trades
- Criminal Justice
- Family & Consumer Sciences
- Health Occupations

To teach in an **academic or subject matter area** in Illinois, veterans need to complete an Illinois Approved Teacher Preparation Program, usually offered through colleges and universities. The Troops to Teachers program requires veterans have a bachelor's degree before entering the program to teach in an academic or subject matter area. The following are examples of academic or subject matter areas:

- Math
- Science
- Special Education
- Physical Education
- Social Studies

Go online to find out more, and download registration forms at www.ProudToServeAgain.com or www.ILTROOPS.org.

Contact the Illinois Troops to Teachers office by e-mail at troops.teachers@illinois.gov
or call toll free at [1-866-372-3157](tel:1-866-372-3157).

