



Q. What is Teacher Loan Forgiveness?

A. This is a Federal Student Aid program in which you may be eligible for forgiveness up to \$17,500 on subsidized and unsubsidized loans. Because this is a federal program, you will need to visit the U.S. Department of Education's [website](#) for eligibility requirements, qualifications, application process, etc.

Q. How does the Illinois State Board of Education support Teacher Loan Forgiveness?

A. At the Illinois State Board of Education, we can verify if a school makes the [TCLI Directory](#) of approved schools for Teacher Loan Forgiveness. The criteria for an IL school to make the directory is as follows:

Public & Non Public (non-profit only) schools are eligible if

1. They are Title I eligible AND
2. Their low-income rate exceeds 30% (30.5%+) for any given year (based on [IL Report Card](#) data reported annually)

Q. What is the TCLI Directory?

A. The Teacher Cancellation Low Income (TCLI) directory lists low-income elementary schools, secondary schools, and educational service agencies (ESAs) that are eligible for purposes teacher loan forgiveness program, teacher cancellation, and the Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant Program.

Q. How often is the TCLI directory updated?

A. In February of each year, the directory is updated to reflect that years data of eligible schools. For example, in February 2020 the school data for 2019-2020 will be uploaded into the directory. In addition, the directory may be updated throughout the year on as needed basis.

Q. What does it mean if a school is Title I eligible?

A. Title I funds are allocated to schools with high numbers and percentages of children from low-income families to help ensure that all children meeting challenging state academic standards. Additional Title I information can be found on the [website](#).

Q. What if the school is not listed in the TCLI directory of approved low-income schools?

A. If your school is not listed, but meets the above criteria, the school principal or superintendent will need to submit supporting documentation which includes an official letter documenting Title I eligibility and low-income percentages for the year(s) in question. Once the letter and supporting documentation is submitted, the ISBE data analysis team will determine if the school should be added onto the TCLI directory. Documentation should be send via email to TLF@isbe.net

Q. How is the name of the school listed in the directory?

A. The name is listed based on how the school is reported and listed on the [IL Report Card](#).

Q. What is the definition of elementary and secondary education as it pertains to Title I and Teacher Loan Forgiveness?

A. The term "secondary education" means the curriculum offered by a school district or an attendance center or centers serving grades 9 through 12 or grades 10 through 12. (105 ILCS 5/22-22). Therefore; in IL, elementary is defined as grades K-8, and secondary as grades 9-12.

Q. When using the TCLI directory, my search is coming up blank.

A. Here are some additional search tips when searching for your school in the TCLI directory.

1. When searching use the name of your school as listed in the IL Report card.
2. Enter the school name using a variety of combinations (Example: For John Adams Elementary School, Search just Adams, Adams Elem, Adams Elementary, etc.)
3. Enter either the school name OR the location, not both.

Q. Who can I contact if I have questions about the TCLI directory?

A. Send email inquiries to TLF@isbe.net

Q. Who can I contact if I have questions about the application process, eligibility guidelines, etc?

A. You will need to contact the U.S. Department of Education as this is a federal program.

1. DE loan forgiveness website: <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/repay-loans/forgiveness-cancellation/teacher>
2. Federal Loan Servicing phone number: 1-800-699-2908 or 1-800-4FED-AID (1-800-433-3243)
3. ED live chat:
https://studentaidhelp.ed.gov/app/chat/chat_launch/chat_data/aGFzaD0xNDgwNzAxMjY1NjYwYWlrNzF5N21ld25tYjkwaDMzZGk/request_source/7

Q. Who can I contact about the status of my application?

A. You will need to contact your loan provider directly. Applications are submitted to and approval is determined by the loan provider.