

PARAPROFESSIONAL TEACHER TRAINING PROGRAM (PTTP) FACT SHEET

What is PTTP?

Ventura County Office of Education (VCOE), in partnership with school districts in Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties, colleges and universities has received funding to provide up to \$2,700 per year toward the cost of tuition/academic fees/exams and textbooks that are required in course-work and programs that meet state teacher preparation standards and lead to a teaching credential. Paraprofessionals receive the funding in the form of a loan, which is forgiven to the extent that participating paraprofessionals fulfill a promise to teach one year in a consortium district for every year of financial assistance received. Paraprofessionals must be full time students to receive financial assistance, i.e. **18 semester units must be completed each year.**

Who is eligible for PTTP?

All Instructional Paraprofessionals who 1) are employees of Ventura County Office of Education Consortium Districts; 2) wish to become Multiple Subjects, Single Subject, and Special Education teachers (Mild/Moderate or Moderate/Severe); 3) have completed some college units towards your BA/Credential goal

What do PTTP participants receive?

1. Tuition, books and other related expenses up to **\$2,700 per year**. Participants enrolled at certain universities may have tuition paid directly through a tuition letter. To receive reimbursement for tuition and/or books, exams, participants must provide VCOE with **original receipts**. The VCOE Business Office will not remit reimbursements based on copies. Participants must provide VCOE with transcripts (grades) at the end of each academic semester/quarter/term.
2. A one-time reimbursement of the state mandated exams (provided funds are available in your account) and for VCOE test preparation courses for: **CBEST/CSET/ and RICA** are offered at no cost to participants.
3. Academic and non-academic support will be available. Includes academic advisement at VCOE, at participating universities, tutoring and bimonthly mandatory cohort meetings that give participants the information and training necessary to make the leap from classified service to certificated service.

What do PTTP participants need to turn in?

To participate in PTTP paraprofessionals must provide VCOE with a complete PTTP application packet annually.

What happens if a participant 1) fails a course, 2) withdraws from a course or 3) receives an incomplete?

If a participant fails a course due to non-attendance and/or simple failure to complete course requirements, the individual is responsible for the cost to repeat the course. The grant will not be charged for repeated courses due to an individual's failure to comply with course requirements.

What happens if a participant fails to meet a minimal GPA?

VCOE must be provided transcripts at the end of each academic term/semester/quarter. The state requires that PTTP participants maintain a 2.7 or higher cumulative GPA. Failure to maintain an adequate GPA may result in suspension and/or dismissal from PTTP.

What happens if a participant 1) resigns his/her position, 2) is terminated or transfers to a job classification not listed above?

According to the legislation establishing this grant, the participant will be required to repay all costs expended on your behalf while a participant in the program. If you wish to have continued funding, DO NOT resign your position to do student teaching. PTTP is required to report the names of all those who drop from the program to the CTC annually.

What happens if a participant is employed as a teacher?

According to the legislation establishing this grant, the participant will be allowed to continue as a participant in PTTP until receiving a preliminary teaching credential. Until a participant receives a preliminary teaching credential, years of service toward fulfilling the conditions of the forgivable loan do not accrue. To repay the loan, participants must teach on a preliminary and/or clear credential one year in a consortium district for every year of financial assistance received.

What happens if a participant decides that he/she can no longer continue in this program?

According to the legislation establishing this grant, the participant will be required to repay all funds incurred while in the program. PTTP is required to report the names of all those who drop from the program to the CTC annually.

Why does PTTP exist?

The State created programs such as PTTP to establish innovative models for teacher education response to teacher shortages and improve teacher retention. These programs' high retention rates are due, in part, to the fact that participants have experience in classroom settings. Therefore, program graduates have a demonstrated commitment to students and do not experience the culture shock that might be experienced by individuals with little or no classroom experience.

Further questions.

For additional information regarding PTTP or to apply for participation, please contact Teacher Development Programs at (805) 437-1320 or e-mail Amber Gutter at agutter@vcoe.org