

Military to Education Career Transition

Dear Military Member,

Have You Considered a Transition From the Military to Teaching?

The education sector may be the perfect second career for you! Military members who have become teachers have established an excellent reputation with school administrators and principals. School districts are finding that former military members are valuable assets in the classroom, bringing leadership skills, discipline, strong work ethic, concern for students, and compelling life experience to the job. Your military skillset and experiences could translate to the academic leadership in your classroom while you enjoy personal and professional growth as an educator.

Please contact MDE-EducatorHelp@Michigan.gov for further assistance.

How Can You Make the Military to Teaching Transition?

Michigan law and rules require that all individuals complete an approved preparation program (e.g., math education, elementary education, English education) to become a certified teacher in Michigan. The requirements are detailed in this [guidance document](#). Members of the military with a baccalaureate (B.A. or B.S.) degree or higher are eligible to begin the teacher certification process to become a teacher at the PK-12 grade level. You will simply need to gain teaching certification through a post-baccalaureate, master's, or alternative route to teacher certification preparation program.

Additional information about teacher and administrator certification may be found at: https://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-5683_14795---,00.html

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Career and Technical Education (CTE) Career?

Military members may already qualify to become a CTE teacher if that is your goal. Military members only need the equivalent of one year of college and six years of experience in a vocational or technical field to begin the credentialing process to be a vocational/technical teacher.

Please see Michigan's [directory of approved teacher preparation programs](#) and select "CTE" from the "Type" drop-down menu. Select your area of expertise from the "Program Name" column for a list of approved CTE teacher preparation providers in that area.

Additionally, depending on the specific military job experience such as Military Occupational Specialty (MOS), a military member may qualify to teach in other CTE areas under an [Annual Career Authorization \(ACA\)](#). Contact the Office of Career and Technical Education for more information.

What is Troops to Teachers (TTT)

Since 1993, TTT has helped over 20,000 veterans successfully transition to a career in education. Funded by the Department of Defense, the program aims to not only get disciplined, motivated, and enthusiastic veterans into our classroom, but to address the problem of teacher shortages and veteran unemployment in the nation. The TTT program provides counseling, employment facilitation, and financial support services for eligible participants to help them meet education and licensing requirements.

For more information, veterans may visit the [Troops To Teachers site](#) for complete information regarding this program.

Financial Assistance Options

Pursuing a career change can be intimidating and expensive. Thankfully, there are some viable options available to help trim the costs.

- Military members can use tuition assistance for their teaching certification while on active duty.
 - Financial assistance in the form of a stipend or a bonus may be available to participants who meet military service requirements, program application time frames, eligible employment, and if separated or retired, an honorable discharge. Additional conditions and restrictions apply.
- Members may also be eligible for financial assistance through the TTT program for teacher certification expenses.
- There are federal loan forgiveness programs for teachers.

Military members may visit the [Troops To Teachers site](#) for complete information regarding this program.

In Michigan, members of the military can be reimbursed for their teacher certification and renewal of certification fees within 6 months of certificate issuance by the Michigan Department of Education. As an added incentive, military member spouses can also be reimbursed for their teacher certification and renewal of certification fees by providing a valid marriage license.

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