

MEMORANDUM

To: Dr. Karen Woodfaulk
CC: Student Loan Corporation
From: Jane Turner
Date: October 19, 2017
Re: SC Teachers Loan

As Chair of the SC Teacher Loan Advisory Committee (TLAC), I am writing to provide the Commission on Higher Education (Commission) with TLAC's recommendations related to the Loan Program. These recommendations are based on the state's critical teacher pipeline shortages and the need to recruit more students into teacher education programs, as well as the need to make the administration of the loan more cost-effective. The recommendations, to take effect no earlier than July 1, 2019, are as follows:

- increase the loan amount to \$7,500 for the junior and senior years while enrolled in a teacher education program, as well as when enrolled in a Master of Arts in Teaching program;
- base loan eligibility for the freshman and sophomore years solely on a declared intent to seek a teacher education degree;
- for future loan program participants, provide loan forgiveness to all who go on to teach in a SC public school, regardless of what school they teach in and what subject they teach, and set the loan forgiveness rate at 33.3% for each completed year of teaching;
- provide loan forgiveness at the 33.3% rate for all loan recipients who are currently teaching in a SC public school, regardless of the teacher's subject or school; and
- replace all references to the SC Student Loan Corporation to language referencing an approved vendor.

The TLAC requests that the Commission move forward with seeking these changes. With the exception of the loan amounts, these recommendations involve changes to the Teacher Loan Program statutory provisions, SC Code Ann. Section 59-26-20(j). The loan amounts are not set by statute or regulation and would appear to be within the discretion of the Commission. Representatives from TLAC and the Student Loan Corporation would be happy to meet with the Commission and/or the appropriate Committee to provide information about the reasons for these changes and to develop projected funding needs. We also would be happy to provide a draft of the proposed statutory changes for the Commission's and Committee's consideration. Thank you.