

## Information for Institutes of Higher Education with Teacher Residency Programs

This advisory includes information regarding a U.S. Department of Education program where Federal Work Study (FWS) Program requirements may be waived for institutions of higher education (IHEs). The U.S. Department of Education program is named, “Experimental Sites Initiative.”

Background on the Federal Work Study Program (FWS): The FWS Program provides funds for part-time employment to help students from low-income families to finance the costs of postsecondary education. Students can receive FWS funds at approximately 3,400 participating postsecondary institutions. Students may be employed by the IHE or a federal, state, or local public agency (such as a school). Additional information on the FWS Program can be found [here](#)

“Experimental Sites Initiative”: The U.S. Department of Education is accepting applications for a program where Federal Work Study (FWS) Program requirements may be waived for institutions of higher education (IHEs). The intent of the waiver is to “remove limits on the portion of an institution’s FWS funds that may support students employed by private-sector companies, increase the number of hours per week an FWS student who is enrolled in a work-based learning program may work, reduce the share of wages that must be covered by private-sector employers, **and allow institutions to pay low-income students for work experiences required by their program of study.**”

Potential Impact for Teacher Residency Programs: There is a possibility that institutions of higher education that provide a **residency program** could receive a waiver, particularly as they support students from low-income families. These funds for students under the FWS Program could cover some of the costs of high quality residency programs and thereby state and institution efforts to support a diverse and well prepared educator workforce.

### To Apply:

- Applications are due from IHEs by **September 23, 2019**. The original notice says the due date is July 8; however, this [notice](#) states that the deadline has been extended to September 23, 2019.
- The Department of Education will host a webinar on **Thursday, July 11, from 1:30 – 3:00 PM (EST)** for institutions interested in applying for the waiver. Information about the webinar can be found [here](#).
- The Learning Policy Institute will view the webinar, and they will create of summary of the information for those who are unable to participate. The Commission will share that summary in upcoming PSD E-News.
- If you have questions about this opportunity, please contact: Warren Farr, U.S. Department of Education, Federal Student Aid, Telephone: (202) 377-4380, [Warren.Farr@ed.gov](mailto:Warren.Farr@ed.gov).
- A link to the original Federal Register notice may be found [here](#).