WHAT IS TROOPS TO TEACHERS?

Troops to Teachers was established in 1993 to assist transitioning service members and veterans in beginning new careers in public, charter and Bureau of Indian Affairs schools. The goal of the Oklahoma office is to identify these service men and women and help facilitate the process of obtaining their teaching certificate. Finding and retaining quality teachers is of particular interest to Oklahoma due to our current teacher shortage.

WHY YOU?

Veterans bring unmatched skills, experience and dedication to students, schools and the community. Skills you honed in the military -- leadership, initiative, discipline, integrity, and adaptability -- naturally transfer to the classroom. For over 250 years the military has been training and producing leaders with the skills and experience that transitions profoundly well into our state’s classrooms. Our office is here to serve and help the children of Oklahoma and the veterans of our great state. Study after study show that the key component to learning in America’s classroom is the person that we place in front of America’s students. U.S. Veterans make exceptional teachers.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

All current and former members of the U.S. Armed Forces, whose last period of service is characterized as honorable, may participate in the program. Those who meet certain education, military service and application requirements may also be eligible for Troops to Teachers Financial Assistance.

CERTIFICATION

The typical Troops to Teachers participant will receive their teacher certification through the state’s alternative certification process. This process allows individuals with at least a bachelor’s degree to teach without going through a college campus teacher education program.

CERTIFICATION COSTS

In partnership with OEQA, the Oklahoma Troops to Teachers office has testing fee waivers available for qualifying participants. The VA offers a testing and licensure reimbursement program. You may be eligible for reimbursement for approved tests if you qualify for educational benefits through the VA.