

U.S. ARMY

FY24, QRT1 (FALL)

EDUCATION & INCENTIVES NEWS LETTER

EDUCATION & INCENTIVES

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- TY24 ArmyignitED allocations
- Spring Semester registration vs. Holidays
- New quarterly Annex H-2 reclassification listing.

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ARE YOU A NEW STUDENT?

Where to start:

Taking the first steps towards starting classes can be an intimidating experience.

This guide will help walk you through the different programs and how /when you should apply for them.

Find a school:

Your first step is to figure out which school you are going to attend.

Once you have selected a school, work with the admissions office to enroll into your degree program.

Apply for FAFSA:

The best time to apply for your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is when you have received your course schedule.

FAFSA can help to take advantage of grants, student loans and is also a requirement to use the MN GI Bill.

Talk to your VA Rep.

Receiving your course schedule also marks a good time to speak with your school's veteran's office and your school's VA Certifying Official and/or Higher Education Vets Program Coordinator.

They will counsel you on the education programs you qualify for and help select the best benefits package based on your service and goals.

They can also assist you in gathering documents for

your benefits applications.

Federal Tuition Assistance (FTA):

Visit ArmyIgnitED.army.mil to create your account. Then, create your education path and register for classes. Your school will upload your registration to your account, and you can select which classes should be funded.

GI-Bill:

Chapter 1606, Chapter 30 and Chapter 33 GI Bill applications must be submitted to the VA through the va.gov website.

The VA takes about 1-2 months to approve applications so start early. Make sure your VA certifying official at the school is tracking you are a veteran using GI Bill benefits so they can process your verification of enrollment.

State Tuition Reimbursement:

In order to qualify for STR, you must be in good standing for the entire term. Your unit administrator is the point of contact for the STR program.

All STR applications must be submitted for payment no later than 90 days **AFTER** the end of the course.

NOTE: Use of FTA is mandatory to qualify for STR. There are exceptions, but don't be that person...

MINNESOTA GI Bill:

You should apply for the MN GI Bill before courses

start, but you may apply as late as the last day of the term.

Since MN GI Bill is a "last payer program" you need to apply for any other sources of funding (including the required FAFSA) before the MN GI Bill will provide funds.

Additional assistance:

Your unit full time staff remain the first line of effort in assisting you with your education needs, but we understand if they don't know all of the things.

Maybe your BN/MSC Retention NCO knows how to help, maybe not, but it wouldn't hurt to ask them.

If all else fails, reach out to the Education office with the following methods of contact; we'd be glad to assist!

Phone: 651-282-4589

Email: ng.mn.mnarng.mbx.assets-education@army.mil



"This guide will help walk you through-"

FEDERAL TUITION ASSISTANCE (FTA)

Federal Tuition Assistance (FTA) deadlines for Spring Term 2024

Current Army Policy states that Soldiers must submit their Federal Tuition Assistance Requests between 60 and 8 days prior to the start of class.

Because of the Army’s policy on dropping classes in ArmyIgnitED after the term start date, it is recommended that you submit each class on a separate request. If you choose to list each class on the same request, there are a few rules that you will need to follow.

If you have classes that start or end in the middle of the term, those classes should be listed on separate requests. The 60 to 8 day policy still applies. For example, if you have classes that start on March 12, do not submit them on the same request as the classes that start on January 16. When the 60 day window opens on January 12, you can submit the classes on a different request.

Additionally, if you have classes that end March 8, those classes should also be on a separate request.

Below are some of the common term start dates and the FTA submission deadlines for those terms.

University of Minnesota – Twin Cities: Term Start and End Dates



| <u>Date</u> | <u>Description</u> | <u>FTA Deadline</u> |
|-------------------|---|---------------------|
| Tue, Jan 16, 2024 | Start of spring full semester and first 7-week sessions | Mon, Jan 8, 2024 |
| Tue, Mar 12, 2024 | Start of spring second 7-week session | Mon, Mar 4, 2024 |

University of Minnesota – Duluth

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Description</u> | <u>FTA Deadline</u> |
|-------------------|--|---------------------|
| Wed, Jan 10, 2024 | First 5-week session classes begin | Tue, Jan 2, 2024 |
| Wed, Jan 10, 2024 | First half and full semester classes begin | Tue, Jan 2, 2024 |
| Mon, Mar 11, 2024 | Second half semester classes begin | Sun, Mar 3, 2024 |

Most school in the Minnesota State University system*

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Description</u> | <u>FTA Deadline</u> |
|----------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Mon, January 8 | Start of Spring Term | Sun Dec 31, 2023 |
| | Mid-term start** | |

Do not wait to start this process! **FTA is now required to be eligible for STR.** If you have missed the 60 day window to apply for FTA, you may be eligible for a **one time** ETP through the MNNG education office.

If you have any questions about Federal Tuition Assistance, call 651-282-4589 or email us at: ng.mn.mnarnng.mbx.assets-education@army.mil

STATE TUITION REIMBURSEMENT

*****You MUST use FTA first (if eligible) in order to use STR*****

With Spring term underway, now is a great time to make sure you have current documents on file so you receive payment as quickly as possible:

TO QUALIFY FOR STR:

- You must submit the following forms and supporting documents to your unit staff no later than 90 days from the last official day of the course/term: Payment Request Form, Grade Report, and Final Fee statement provided by your school which clearly shows the amount of tuition charged.
- If you did not apply for or receive FTA, you must check "NO" on your payment request form and clearly state the reason why. Failure to do this will result in your payment request being returned for corrections.

THINGS TO REMEMBER:

- SM MUST have a passing/current HT/ WT, APFT/ACFT, ANG PT for the entire term to be eligible.
- STR will not fund a degree equal to, or less than, SM's current degree level. IE: If a Service member has a Master's degree, STR will not fund another Master's degree or anything lower.
- The undergraduate STR rate is up to 100% of University of Minnesota's undergraduate rate (\$557.55per credit) with a max yearly benefit of \$18,000 (1 JUL - 30 JUN)
- The Graduate STR rate is up to 75% of University of Minnesota's graduate rate (\$1,194.75 per credit) with a max yearly benefit of \$28,000 (1 JUL—30 JUN)
- You will only receive reimbursement for grades of a "C" or better for undergraduate coursework or a "B" or better for graduate coursework.

"If you haven't heard, you must use FTA in order to qualify for STR. Most common exceptions are published in the current MN National Guard Circular 621-5-1."

STATE DIRECT DEPOSIT FORMS:

STR payments are made via direct deposit using MN State Direct Deposit form.

Check with your unit to make sure that we have your current banking information on file. If not, complete a State EFT Form (Annex D-1) with your unit admin ASAP.

The Education Service Officer (ESO) only requires the Direct Deposit & W-9 form on the initial STR submission. A new form is only necessary if there are changes in your bank or bank account information.



MN GI BILL

How to apply:

Visit <https://mn.gov/mdva/resources/education/minnesotagibill/> or scan the QR code.

There are links for Higher Education, OJT/ Apprenticeships and Licensing and Certifications at the bottom of the page.



MN GI BILL ELIGIBILITY

Veteran who is serving or has served honorably in any branch of the United States armed forces at any time, or

Non-Veteran who has served honorably for a total of five credible years or more cumulatively as a member of the Minnesota National Guard or any other active or reserve component of the United States armed forces, and any part of that service occurred on or after September 11, 2001, and

Applicants must be a Minnesota resident defined by M.S. 197.05(b).

Enroll at a Minnesota institution

Complete FAFSA Financial Aid application if attending an institution of higher learning: <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa>

MN GI BILL BENEFITS

Students may receive up to **\$5,000** per academic year and up to **\$15,000** maximum lifetime benefit. Service Members in OJT/Apprenticeship programs may receive up to **\$2,000** per fiscal year and your employer can receive up to **\$2,000** for participating in the program. You may also use your MN GI Bill to reimburse up to **\$5,000** of the costs of prep courses, exams and fees leading to licensure, certification or admission tests for institutions of higher learning.

“Students may receive up to \$5,000 per academic year and up to \$15,000 maximum lifetime benefit.”

MN GI BILL REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

- MDVA COE - you get this from the MDVA
- if you have not been deployed
NGB 23A: to show 5yrs in the guard
- if you have deployed your: DD214
- if you aren't in you need your: NGB22
- **There is no NOBE for the MN GI Bill, only the COE you receive from the MDVA**

FEDERAL GI BILL 1606 (SELECT RESERVE)

What is it?

The Montgomery GI Bill Selected Reserve (MGIB-SR) (Chapter 1606) program offers up to 36 months of education and training benefits. you may be eligible for this benefit.

How do I qualify?

- Sign a six-year enlistment contract, extension, or officer Service agreement
- Have a high school diploma or equivalent
- Complete your initial active duty for training (IADT) or Basic Officer Leadership Course (BOLC)

What do I get?

- **\$466.00** per month for full-time enrollment (**effective 1 Oct 2023**)
- Payment is made directly to the soldier tax free each month from the DVA
- CAN be used alongside FTA (Federal Tuition Assistance) for the same courses, when attending half-time or more
- CAN be combined with most STA (State Tuition Assistance) check with education office to confirm eligibility.

For the unit:

When service members apply for 1606, their information in IPPS-A and iPerms is likely incorrect. Please validate civilian education, DD Forms 214 (IADT) and DD Forms 4 are accurate and updated in the respective systems of record. **These deficiencies may significantly delay the application process.**

Kicker:

The Kicker is paid in conjunction with a basic Montgomery GI Bill benefit, and eligibility can be established only if you're eligible for the MGIB-SR A Soldier may receive a maximum of 36 months of benefits under the Kicker program based on the kicker rate they contracted for (\$200 or \$350). All payments are tax-free. When eligibility for the basic benefit expires, so does eligibility for the Kicker.

Apply for this benefit: <https://www.va.gov/education/how-to-apply/>



“\$466.00 per month for full-time enrollment (effective 1 Oct 2023)”

AVAILABLE KICKERS

\$200 Enlisted Accessions (EA)

Non-Prior Service (NPS)

\$350 Re-Enlistment/Extension (RE)

Six-Year Reenlistment

\$350 Officer Commissioning (OC)

Officer Candidate School (OCS)

Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC)

Warrant Officer Candidate (WOC)



GI BILL POST 9/11 CHAPTER 33

What is it?

A benefit that is for Service Members who serve on active duty on or after September 11, 2001

How do I qualify?

- You're eligible for the benefit if you meet at least 1 of these requirements:
- Serve 90 days in a qualifying active duty on or after Sept 11, 2001
- Serve in a qualifying duty status for more than 30 continuous days and separate due to a service-connected disability or injury
- Purple hearts recipients eligible at 100% payment tier

What Do I Get?

- Up to 100% of in-state tuition if you are attending a public school.
- Maximum payment of \$26,381.37 per year for private or foreign school

Book and Supply Stipend

Up to \$1,000 per academic year (\$41.67/ credit hour)

Monthly Housing Allowance

- Equivalent to BAH of E-5 with dependents
- Based on zip code where attending classes
- Must be attending more than half-time to qualify.
- If attending only online classes: \$988.00

Payment Tiers

Payments for all three benefits are pro-rated based on your percentage tier.

- 36 Months = 100% (includes Purple Heart Recipients)
- 30 Months = 90%
- 24 Months = 80%
- 18 Months = 70%
- 6 months = 60%
- 90 days = 50%

Apply for your GI BILL Now!

Link: <https://www.va.gov/education/how-to-apply/>

Note:

NOBE and COE are entirely different; Notice of basic eligibility is just that; a notice. Certificates of eligibility are needed to turn on your benefit.

NOBE and COE are NOT the same thing!



POST 9/11 TRANSFER EDUCATION BENEFITS (TEB)

What is it? An incentive for continued service, offered to Service Members who qualify for Post 9/11 GI Bill

How do I qualify?

- Qualify for the Post-9/11 GI Bill
- Be currently serving in the Armed Forces with at least six years completed (IRR and ING are ineligible)
- Must have at least four years remaining service obligation from the TEB request date
- Transfer to an eligible dependent

What do I get?

- Dependent(s) receive the same tier payment as Soldier
- Payment percentages and rates can be found at: <https://milconnect-pki.dmdc.osd.mil/milconnect/>

Children:

- Cannot use the benefit until Sponsor/Service member has completed 10 years of service
- Are eligible for the housing allowance when attending more than half-time
- A child's eligibility ends on their 26th birthday unless you specify an earlier end date

Your dependents may be able to get money to pay for these expenses:

- Tuition
- Housing
- Books and supplies
- Fees for national standardized tests
- Fees for licensing and certifications



IMPORTANT! In order to modify/revoke months from your dependents after separating from service, you must transfer at least one month to each dependent while you're still serving.

How to apply?

Step 1: Contact the VA: Call 1-888-GIBILL-1 to determine the number of months of benefits you have remaining.

Step 2: Complete Extension (If required): You must have at least four years remaining service obligation to transfer your benefits.

Step 3: Complete Application for Transfer: Complete Online application in Milconnect (<https://milconnect-pki.dmdc.osd.mil/milconnect/>)

Step 4: Access Military Email and Follow Instructions: Login to milConnect, review your obligation end date (OED), print your approval form.

IMPORTANT: IF YOU VOLUNTARILY SEPARATE FROM THE ARNG PRIOR TO COMPLETING YOUR OED, YOUR TEB WILL BE TERMINATED AND ANY FUNDS PAID TO YOUR DEPENDENTS WILL BE RECOUPED!

Step 5: Dependent Application to VA

- Dependent will apply for a Certificate of Eligibility (COE) online: <https://www.va.gov/education/how-to-apply/>
 - You can also apply over the phone or at a regional VA office, the link above has all of the details.
- Notify your schools VA Certifying Official; they can certify your enrollment
- Verify your enrollment each month online to continue receiving payments

ARNG FEDERAL INCENTIVES



If you are missing a bonus payment, please inform your unit ASAP!

Please read what you sign and keep a copy!

3-year reenlistment - \$10,000.00 lump sum (can be combined with SLRP and state bonus)

SLRP requires a 6 year reenlistment and provides up to \$50,000.00 with max of \$8,333.33/ year towards student loans (can be combined with state and federal reenlistment bonuses)

Note: See your Retention NCO for SLRP "How-to"

Qualifications-

- Soldier needs to be in a hard slot
- Must have a current and passing record ACFT/APFT
- Must have a current and passing height and weight
- Must have no more than 13 years and 1 month time in service

E&I

If you have any questions about Federal Incentives call 651-282-4589 or email us at: ng.mn.mnarng.mbx.assets-education@army.mil





MINNESOTA STATE INCENTIVES

The State Re-Enlistment Bonus (SRB):

SRB bonus has two options:

- **Three-year - \$4,500 (Effective 01 December 2023)**
- Four-year - \$6,000 **(Available until 30 November 2023)**
- Six-year - \$15,000

If you have a federal reenlistment bonus, you may be eligible for the state bonus as well.

What is needed of the Soldier:

Check with your unit to make sure that:

- You must have completed 6 years time in service creditable for retirement and must have 20 or few years of service for retirement on current ETS date.
- Make sure the Education office has your current banking information on file. If not, you need complete a State EFT Form (Annex D-1) with your unit admin ASAP.

Eligibility:

- Meet Minnesota National Guard reenlistment eligibility criteria.
- ARNG members must be duty-MOS qualified. All Service Members must also be the grade of the assigned position or one grade below the required grade of the position to be eligible.
- SM MUST have a passing and current APFT/ACFT and HT/WT 3 months prior to the date of service member's reenlistment date.
- No retroactive incentives are authorized. Any incentives offered after reenlistment are not valid for payments.
- AGR and Full-Time Permanent Technicians ARE eligible to receive the SRB.

See our circular for all state programs and eligibility criteria:

Link: [MNNG Website](#)

SharePoint: [01 MN State Circulars](#)



RECLASSIFICATION BONUS ELIGIBILITY

MN National Guard Circular 621-5-1

Annex H-2

1 July 2023

RECLASSIFICATION BONUS-ELIGIBLE MOS/AFSCs

MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD 2023-2024

This list of reclassification bonus-qualifying MOS/AFSCs is effective 15 NOV 2023, and is valid until amended or rescinded. This list is subject to change without notice. Change generally occurs quarterly for the AirForce and annually for the Army.

| MOS | AFSC |
|--|---|
| 11C – Indirect Fire Infantrymen | 1D7X3C – Cable & Antenna Operations |
| 13B – Cannon Crewmember | 2A7X2 – Non-Destructive Inspection |
| 13F – Fire Support Specialist | 2R1X1 – Maintenance Management Production |
| 15T – Black Hawk Helicopter Mechanic | 2S0X1 – Supply |
| 19K – M1 Armored Vehicle Crew Member | 2T1X1 – Vehicle Operations |
| 25H – Multichannel Transmission System Operator Maintainer | 2T0X1 – Traffic Management |
| 25U – Signal Operations Support Specialist | 3E9X1 – Emergency Management |
| 74D – Chem, Bio, Rad, and Nuc (CBRN) SPC | 3F1X1 – Services |
| 88M - Motor Transport Operator | 5R0X1 – Religious Affairs |
| 91A – M1 Abrams Tank System Maintainer | 6F0X1 – Financial Management |
| 91B – Wheeled Vehicle Mechanic | |
| 91E – Allied Trades Specialist | |
| 91M – Bradley Fighting Vehicle System Maintainer | |
| 92F – Petroleum Supply Specialist | |
| 92G - Culinary Specialist | |

ANNEX H-2 STATE RECLASSIFICATION BONUS MOS/AFSC LIST

EDUCATION & INCENTIVES

ANG Program Points of Contact (POCs)

State Tuition Reimbursement (STR):

133rd AW: Local Unit Training Manager (or Unit STR rep)

148th FW: For questions, email 148.fw.str.org@us.af.mil

For information, visit Wing app (Links and Resources)

GI Bill: [Department of Veterans Affairs \(VA\)](#) 888-442-4551 (or Local Retention Office)

Federal Tuition Assistance (FTA): Base Education & Training Office

State Reenlistment Bonus

Effective 01 Feb 2022, the State Reenlistment Bonus returned and eligibility criteria was edited shortly after to allow MORE service members to apply! Visit your local Unit Career Advisor or Retention Office to see if you qualify.

Basic eligibility requirements, members must:

- Be 3-level-qualified & at or one grade below assigned position,
- Be a satisfactory participant 3 months prior to reenlisting,
- Reenlist for 4 or 6 yrs,
- CAN BE AGR/Perm-Indef Technician,
- MUST sign bonus contract on the day of reenlistment,
- Have less than 20 years of service credible for retirement.

Transferring to the Air Guard?

There are Federal bonuses for certain jobs & if you have a state reenlistment bonus, it transfers over with you! Scan this code and send us your contact info to hear more:



Inside this issue

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Acronyms

- ARNG = Army National Guard
- ETP = Exception to Policy
- ETS = End Term of Service
- FTA = Federal Tuition Assistance
- OED = Obligation End Date
- SCO = School Certifying Official
- SM = Service Member
- STR = State Tuition Reimbursement
- TEB = Transfer of Education Benefit
- VA = Veterans Affairs



Post 9/11 GI Bill Transfer of Education Benefits (TEB) Process*

*See attached “how-to” for the TEB process

IMPORTANT! If you have applied for the transfer **PRIOR** to it moving to myEducation and it has not yet been approved, your request may be cancelled in July 2023 and you’ll have to restart the 4yr svc oblig.

RECOMMENDATION: If you have applied to transfer your Post 9/11 GI Bill, print the Approval letter from MilConnect.

“An investment in knowledge pays the best interest.”

- Benjamin Franklin

FAQ:

Q: Where can I find current Federal Incentive Information?

A: Unit Career Advisor, Retention Office, or QRCs below



Federal Incentives Update

Source: FY24 ANG Federal Incentives Operational Guidance, thru Ch1

Federal Bonus AFSCs (edited list for only MN ANG AFSCs):

| | |
|--|--|
| 2A5X1 Airlift/Special Mission Aircraft Maintenance | 1T0X1 Survival, Evasion, Resistance, Escape (SERE) Specialist |
| 2A6X1 Aerospace Propulsion | 2T2X1 Air Transportation |
| 2A6X2 Aerospace Ground Equipment | 1W0X1 Weather |
| 2A6X3 Aircrew Egress Systems | 2T3X1 Mission Generation Vehicular Equipment Maintenance |
| 1C8X3 Radar, Airfield & Weather Systems (RAWS) | 2W0X1 Munitions Systems |
| 2A6X4 Aircraft Fuel Systems | 2W1X1 Aircraft Armament Systems |
| 1N2X1 Signals Intelligence | 3E0X2 Electrical Systems |
| 2A6X5 Aircraft Hydraulic Systems | 3E2X1 Pavements and Construction Equipment |
| 2A9X4 Heavy Aircraft Integrated Avionics | 2A0X1 Avionics Test Station, Components and Electronic Warfare Systems |
| 2F0X1 Fuels | 3E3X1 Structural |
| 2R0X1 Maintenance Management Analysis | 2A3X3 Tactical Aircraft Maintenance |
| 1S0X1 Safety | 3E4X1 Water and Fuel Systems Maintenance |
| 2R1X1 Maintenance Management Production | 2A3X5 Advanced Fighter Aircraft Integrated Avionics |



*“You are not stuck where you are...unless you decide to be.”
- Wayne Dyer*

State Reclass Bonus List (program details on side panel —>)

Each quarter, a list of AFSCs are recommended to be eligible for the State Reclass Bonus. Each Wing is allowed to request five AFSCs, so just because it’s listed doesn’t mean there’s a vacancy at your Wing—check with your Retention Office or Recruiting Team for details.

Effective 15 Nov, the following AFSCs have been approved for a State Reclass Bonus (will be reviewed again in early Feb 2024):

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1D7X3C Cable & Antenna | 2T1X1 Vehicle Ops/Dispatch |
| 2A7X2 Non-Destr. Inspection | 3E9X1 Emergency Management |
| 2R1X1 Maint. Mgmt. Prod. | 3F1X1 Services |
| 2S0X1 Supply | 5R0X1 Religious Affairs |
| 2T0X1 Traffic Management | 6F0X1 Financial Management |

Members can qualify for both federal and state incentives at the same time.

MN Reclass Bonus

Purpose

Incentivize members who reclass into understaffed AFSCs

Who can apply?

Those having:

- Grade equal to, or no more than 1 grade below, projected position;
- <16 years “Sat. service”;
- Ability to serve 3 years in MN ANG (from date new 3-level is awarded);
- Status of Drill Status Guardsman (aka “Traditional”) &/or FT Fed. Tech.;

How much?

\$10,000 lump sum

When am I paid?

After new AFSC 3-level has been awarded (when back from new Tech School, check in w/Retention Office Manager)