

# EDUCATION & INCENTIVES NEWS LETTER

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## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Where do I start?
- AIED 101 Training
- Time is running out for Spring FTA requests
- No more one-time ETPs
- FED Incentives updates

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**REFERENCES / HELPFUL LINKS AND TIPS**

**FAFSA:** <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/afsa>

**Federal Tuition Assistance (FTA):** <https://www.armyignited.army.mil/student/public/welcome>

- Virtual Benefits Training: Main Menu > Education Programs > Virtual Benefits Training
- Send a message: Main Menu > Messages > Create new message

**Credentialing Assistance (CA):** <https://www.armyignited.army.mil/student/public/welcome>

- Search credentials on army Cool: <https://www.cool.osd.mil/army/index.html>

**State programs information:** <https://minnesotanationalguard.ng.mil/>

- 'Member' tab > 'education'
- You will find our circular, newsletter and fillable forms for State Tuition Reimbursement

**Federal GI Bill**

- Apply for CH33 (Post 9/11) GI Bill: <https://www.va.gov/education/how-to-apply/>
- Apply for 1606 Montgomery GI Bill (Selected Reserve): <https://www.va.gov/education/how-to-apply/>
- Search for GI Bill eligible certifications: <https://inquiry.vba.va.gov/weamspub/buildSearchInstitutionCriteria.do>

**MN GI BILL:** <https://gibill.mn.gov/Home>

**SLRP:** Pull your NSLDS through <https://studentaid.gov/> and navigate to "my aid" > View Details. Your Retention and ADMIN NCOs have access to comprehensive 'how to' guides for building NSLDS submissions.

**Army Personnel Testing:** Call to schedule an appointment for AFCT (ASVAB retake), SIFT, DLPT/DLAB or OPI with our office. We test on Wednesdays at 0830 and 1230. (651) 282-4589.

## PROACTIVITY OPENS DOORS TO OPPORTUNITIES

Sometimes you don't know what questions to ask regarding your education benefits, **so where do you start?** Our suggestion is to tell people with the knowledge, what you want to accomplish and start the planning process early, regardless of your desired education goal, but do it early, in advance, before you register.....like ahead of time.

This is one of those "I want to do (insert goal here), what benefits do I have access to and what do I need to do to use them" kind of conversations. You have multiple sources to choose from to have this conversation; or you can contact all of them and see if there are any inconsistencies to flush out.

MNNG Education office (**our office**), is a great resource; we action FTA processes in ArmyIgnitED (AIED), process CH 1606 GI Bill eligibility changes and manage State Tuition Reimbursement (STR). We are your first line of effort for use if benefits.

The MN Department of Veterans Affairs (**MDVA**) is another great resource. MDVA manages the MN GI Bill program as well as other MN funded programs for veterans and can assist with federal GI Bill questions or concerns.

Most schools have a school certifying official (**SCO**), these guys process GI Bill functions in an application called the AI portal, they use that same application to update school information to the AIED catalogue so you can select your school, degree plan and classes when applying for FTA.

There are a slew of other folks who are eager and able to assist you. Usually when you talk to one of the representatives mentioned above, they will refer you to other contacts and you can start to build your knowledge and network, so take a minute and call them.

Attending school is a big financial decision, one you shouldn't rush into without a plan and contingencies. Make the time to develop a **plan, prepare** for attending and using your benefits, start **executing** your plan and **assess** the process as you navigate your education journey. (Does this sound familiar to anyone?)

**Start the planning process early regardless of your desired education goal!**

## FEDERAL TUITION ASSISTANCE (FTA)

**New users!** If you have **NEVER** used FTA before, you are **REQUIRED** to review the AIED 101 training. They made it easy and put it on YouTube!

The new federal fiscal year started in October 2024! You have new credits! 16-credits of support at up-to \$250.00 per credit; you should be using this to request FTA for your spring term.

ArmyIgnitED (AIED) allows 8-60 days before the first day of class to submit your FTA funding requests in AIED. There should be little-to-no reason you are unable to submit a funding request.

If you do find an error, chances are that we can help resolve that issue for you and get you ready to request your funding. Most times it is a same day turn-around. **Please be proactive and give us enough time to assist you!**

If you are requesting funding within 7 days of your class start date, chances are you need our office to assist you. To give yourself a fighting chance, you will need to be very responsive and timely to our requests and provide all necessary documentation! Commonly requested documents are:

- An evaluated degree plan (EDP), many schools call this an academic progress audit system (APAS) or (Degree Audit Report (DAR )
- Class schedule
- Fee Statement
- Letter from your school (reasons very depending on circumstances)

If you do not submit for FTA and it was available to you, chances are you will not be eligible for STR, so get those funding requests submitted.



SCAN



FOR YOUTUBE  
VIDEO

### DETAILS TO REMEMBER

- Degrees: FTA will not fund degrees that are equivalent to or less than one you already have. Ex. If you have a bachelors; FTA will not fund an Associates or Bachelors, but will provide funding for a Masters.
- You can combine FTA with STR, Federal GI Bills and the MN GI Bill.

## STATE TUITION REIMBURSEMENT (STR)

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

There are no more one-time ETPs for not using FTA, apply for your spring term now!

### TO QUALIFY FOR STR:

There are a few things you need to keep in mind to ensure you continue to receive your STR:

1. Make note of your HT/WT/AFCT/AFT. The circular provides 15 months for fitness tests and 8 months for Army HT/WT before you're considered overdue.
2. Use FTA if you're eligible and have funding remaining to use.

### EXCEPTIONS TO POLICY

- Exceptions to policy are limited to items found on Annex B-1 of the MN National Guard Circular. If you do not qualify for the basic benefit, an ETP will not be granted to give you eligibility.
- One-time ETPs are not being accepted for not using FTA.
- ETPs are only authorized for the previous term, any ETPs for terms that precede the previous term will not be accepted. Ex. ETPs for Fall term will be accepted if they are submitted by the end of your spring term submission date.
- It comes down to ensuring you understand your requirements and making sure you are keeping up with them.

### 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 direct deposit form is only necessary if there are changes in your bank or bank account information.**

**DFAS does not support STR. If you need to update your account information to receive drill pay, you must also update your account information with us separately.**

### NEW STATE FISCAL YEAR NEW MOU

There are quite a few clerical changes in the State Circular this SFY so your STR and State programs users will require a new MOU. The biggest change is that eligibility requirements will be listed under each chapter as apposed to an all-encompassing Chapter 1-7.

If you intend on submitting any request for a State Program to include STR, you will require the SFY25 MOU (TBP).

One-time ETPs are no longer being accepted.

## 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.

The website is not compatible with Internet Explorer



## 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 **\$3,000** per fiscal year. You may also use your MN GI Bill to reimburse up to **\$3,000** 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

- if you have not been deployed NGB 23A: to show 5yrs in the guard
- if you have deployed your: DD214 .
- if you aren't currently serving you will need your: NGB22

## FEDERAL GI BILL

### Key items for CH1606 eligibility:

- Must be a high school graduate
- Must have had 6 remaining TIS at any point in there career
- IADT complete.

### How do I know for sure?

You must validate if the system (GIMS) accurately identifies you as eligible. Reach out to your unit full-time staff; they can look you up in GIMS and see what your eligibility status reads.

If you are ineligible when you shouldn't be, have your unit forward a request to the education services team to change your eligibility. Be warned! All documentation must be in iPerms to make an eligibility change for you.

### I received a disapproval notice from the VAI

Chances are you were marked ineligible for the CH1606 GI Bill when you requested a certificate of eligibility (COE) and the VA sent you a disapproval letter. Forward the letter to our office so we can assist you in correcting the eligibility and start getting you paid.

### If you qualify for more than one GI Bill benefit, call our office before applying .

You could potentially waste 12 months of benefits if you do not understand how they work. When applying for CH33, you must relinquish eligibility for another GI Bill benefit. In many cases, this is not a sound financial decision.

For more specific information regarding Federal GI Bill programs, you can contact the VA Education Office at 1-888-GIBILL-1 or

reach out to our office with any eligibility concerns at 651-282-4589 or [ng.mn.mnarng.mbx.assets-education@army.mil](mailto:ng.mn.mnarng.mbx.assets-education@army.mil).

## AVAILABLE KICKERS

### [\\$350 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)

## ARNG FEDERAL INCENTIVES

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

**Please read what you sign and keep a copy!**

### Federal Bonuses

**3-year reenlistment** - \$10,000.00 lump sum (**cannot** be combined with SLRP, but can be combined with GI Bill Kicker)

#### **Qualifications-**

- Soldier must be in a hard slot at time of signature
- Must have a current and passing record ACFT
- Must have a current and passing height and weight
- Must have no more than 13 years and 1 month time in service if enrolled in the Legacy Retirement system
- Must have no less than 5 years and no more than 6 years 1 month time in service at ETS date if enrolled in the Blended Retirement System.

**Blended Retirement Service Continuation Pay-** Incentive based on your Grade and Time in Service

#### **Qualifications-**

- Must be between 8 and 12 years time in service
- Must be enrolled in Blended Retirement System
- Must have a 4 year remaining service obligation



**Contact your unit FTS or Retention NCO to see if you qualify!**



## STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENT (SLRP)

### SLRP at a glance

- Provides up to \$50,000.00 (up to a cap of \$8,333.33 per year).
- Must contract for six years.
- Must have no more than 16 years of service on contract start date.
- Must have authorized, pre-existing loans listed.
- Must be in a hard slot (not overstrength).
- Must be Duty MOS Qualified.
- Must be in an Authorized TDA (deployable unit).
- Can be combined with three-year REB.
- Must be in good standing!

### Common misconceptions:

- SLRP **will not** pay off your student loans, but it will help you!
- You should continue to make monthly payments towards your loans!
- It is the SMs responsibility to create their NSLDS submissions and forward to their FTS.

**Change: Can no longer be combined with FED, 3-year REB.**

**Note: See your Retention NCO for a NSLDS submission “How-to”**

SLRP Inquiries can be made to 651-282-4105  
or: [ng.mn.mnarng.mbx.assets-education@army.mil](mailto:ng.mn.mnarng.mbx.assets-education@army.mil)