

Amendments to the Higher Education Act from P.L. 110-315 Affecting ACG, SMART Grant, and TEACH Grant Programs

Academic Competitiveness Grant (ACG) and SMART Grant Programs

Rigorous secondary school program of study:

- Through 6/30/09, designation as a rigorous secondary school program requires ED recognition.
- Effective 7/1/09, recognition of rigorous program shifted to states, which must report them to ED; additional ED-promulgated definitions found in regulations in effect on May 6, 2008, continue to apply.

Changes made by the Ensuring Continued Access to Student Loans Act of 2008 (ECASLA), including revision of academic year tracking, are deferred from January 1, 2009, to July 1, 2009.

TEACH Grant Program

A TEACH Grant recipient may satisfy the service obligation by teaching in a field in which he or she has acquired a degree or expertise, if it was designated as high-need at the time he or she received the TEACH Grant, even if the field no longer has a high-need designation when he or she begins teaching.

ED may establish in regulations areas of extenuating circumstances under which a TEACH Grant recipient may be excused from fulfilling all or part of the teaching service obligation.