

RULES AND REGULATIONS
NURSE EDUCATORS REWARD PROGRAM

The Rhode Island Student Loan Authority, pursuant to Chapter 62.1 of Title 16 of the General Laws of Rhode Island, as amended, hereby promulgates the following Rules and Regulations for the Rhode Island Nurse Educators Reward Program (herein the "Program").

A. PURPOSE

The Nurse Educators Reward Program is intended to attract new full-time faculty to Rhode Island nursing programs to help alleviate the nursing shortage in the state. There is a shortage of nursing students because programs have more qualified applicants than there are available slots for students. RISLA has made the incentive greater for nurse faculty as compared to nurses to encourage more graduates to go into teaching. If there are more teachers, programs can increase their enrollments which should help alleviate the nursing shortage.

B. ELIGIBILITY FOR PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST FORGIVENESS

To be eligible to participate in the Program, as amended, an individual:

1. Must have at least a master's degree in nursing.
2. Must be teaching full time as a member of the nursing faculty at any institution licensed by the Rhode Island Board of Nursing Registration.
3. For principal forgiveness, must have a federal Stafford, Graduate PLUS or RISLA Alternative Loan to finance his or her nursing education from the Rhode Island Student Loan Authority or one of its affiliated lenders **made on or after July 1, 2006**. (For the purpose of these regulations, "Alternative Loan" shall mean a College Bound Loan, a RIFEL Loan, or some other non-federal education loan made by the Authority.)
4. For interest forgiveness must have a federal Stafford, Graduate PLUS or RISLA Alternative Loan to finance his or her nursing education from the Rhode Island Student Loan Authority or one of its affiliated lenders **made on or after July 1, 2000**.

C. PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST FORGIVENESS

Any individual eligible for principal and interest forgiveness under the criteria specified herein shall obtain an application from the Rhode Island Student Loan Authority and shall complete and submit such application to the Authority. Based on such application and such other supporting documentation that may be requested, the Authority shall determine whether the applicant satisfies the eligibility criteria for forgiveness.

If the Authority determines that the applicant meets all eligibility requirements, the applicant shall be relieved of the obligation to pay up to \$5000 of principal per year (in the aggregate) on his or her RISLA Stafford and Graduate PLUS Loan(s) and RISLA Alternative Loan(s) obtained on or after July 1, 2006 during the first four years of repayment provided the applicant continues to satisfy the eligibility requirements set forth herein. Principal forgiveness shall be applied to the individuals' loan balance at the end of each calendar year.

In addition an eligible applicant shall be relieved of the obligation to pay any interest on his or her RISLA Stafford and Graduate PLUS Loan(s) and RISLA Alternative Loans(s) obtained on or after July 1, 2000 during the first four years after the effective date of these regulations.

If at any time the applicant is deemed by the Authority to be no longer eligible for principal and interest forgiveness on his or her Stafford and/or Graduate PLUS Loan(s) and/or RISLA Alternative Loans, the Authority shall notify the applicant in which event the applicant's eligibility for loan forgiveness shall terminate.

Any individual deemed eligible by the Authority for principal and interest forgiveness shall submit to the Authority each year such information as the Authority may prescribe to determine the individual's continued eligibility, which shall include certification from his or her employer and proof of being licensed by the Rhode Island Board of Nursing Registration.

Any individual no longer deemed eligible for principal and interest forgiveness on his or her loan(s) shall forthwith pay to the holder of such loan all principal and accrued interest accrued during the period of ineligibility.

D. APPEALS

Any applicant who is aggrieved by any determination with respect to his or her eligibility for loan forgiveness may appeal such determination in writing to the Executive Director of the Rhode Island Student Loan Authority, 560 Jefferson Boulevard, Warwick, RI 02886 within twenty (20) days of said determination. The decision of the Executive Director on all appeals shall be final.

E. TERMINATION AND SUSPENSION OF THE PROGRAM

Unless extended by the Authority, the Program shall terminate on December 31, 2012. Applicants who on or before December 31, 2012 have been deemed eligible for loan forgiveness under this Program shall continue to receive the benefits specified herein on their loans made on or before December 31, 2012.

Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, the Program may be suspended by the Authority in any year for which the Authority determines, in its judgment, there is not available funding.