

Student Debt Relief Fund for SEIU Local 500 Bargaining Unit Members

Employee and Retiree Service Center (ERSC)
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS (MCPS)
Rockville, Maryland 20850

See MCPS Regulation GMG-RA, *Tuition Reimbursement*

INSTRUCTIONS

Article 28(J) Career Development and Training, of the Agreement Between SEIU Local 500, CTW and the Board of Education of Montgomery County, established a Student Debt Relief Fund for the benefit of MCPS employees covered under the Agreement to reimburse employees for personal student loan debt incurred prior to the member's employment with MCPS, under rules agreed to by the parties. This fund is meant to pay for programs at universities, trade schools, training programs, and other institutes of learning that provide supporting service professionals education to improve their job performance and serve the MCPS community.

The goal is to provide assistance up to 10 percent of your original loan per year, paying off not more than 50 percent of the balance incurred before and during your employment with MCPS, not to exceed your existing balance. The fund is a set amount each year and the goal is to serve as many supporting service employees as possible at a meaningful level. The exact percentage of assistance will not be known until the March 31 deadline. It is expected to be within the range of 5–10 percent based on the number of applications received.

To request this benefit, please complete, sign, and return this form, with all required documentation, **by March 31**. You may fax the signed form and required documentation to 301-279-3651 or 301-279-3642, or email a PDF of the signed form and all attachments to ERSC@mcpsmd.org. Please only submit the form via one method. Submitting via multiple methods can cause errors and delay the processing of your submission. **Applications that are incomplete, missing documentation, or unsigned will not be processed and will be returned to the employee.**

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

You are obligated for any tax liability associated with reimbursements received from the Student Debt Relief Fund. You should contact your tax preparer for more information on how this could impact your obligation to pay income taxes.

The student debt relief fund is a fund only to pay off debt of MCPS supporting service bargaining unit employees. Student debt taken for a child's or relative's education is not eligible. Documentation is updated annually. ALL PAPERWORK IS DUE BY March 31. Incomplete submissions will not be considered and will be returned.

Check List (for new applicants)

Have you attached—

- Official transcripts from all educational institutions
- Copies of all original loan statements
- Documentation showing that you are currently in good standing as of December 31 (example, monthly loan statement)
- Have you taken the student debt relief workshop

Check List (for previously approved applicants)

Have you attached—

- Documentation showing that you are currently in good standing as of December 31 (example, monthly loan statement)
- Documentation showing your balance as of December 31.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR SEIU STUDENT DEBT RELIEF FUND

- The employee has been employed for a minimum of 12 months as a permanent employee in an SEIU bargaining unit position.
- The employee has attended a workshop on understanding the student debt relief program and additional student debt relief options for which the employee may be eligible.
- The debt is for studies relevant to any employment with MCPS.
- The employee's loan repayment is in good standing with the lender to whom the eligible student debt is being repaid.

PAPER WORK SUBMISSIONS

Applications that are incomplete, missing documentation, or unsigned will not be processed and will be returned to employee.

Select one submission option only:

- Email a PDF of the signed form and all required documentation to ERSC@mcpsmd.org.
- Fax the signed form and all required documentation to 301-279-3651 or 301-279-3642 **OR** drop off at ERSC at 45 W. Gude, Suite 1200.

EMPLOYEE INFORMATION

Employee name _____

(Maiden or former name if applicable): _____

MCPS employee ID: _____ MCPS hire date ____/____/____ Primary telephone: ____-____-____

Are you in an SEIU bargaining unit position? Yes No

Address: _____

EDUCATION

Where did you receive your education? *(Please include as many schools as apply.)*

What was the topic of study? _____

**Please attach an official transcript for each school attended. (An official copy of the transcript is acceptable)*

STUDENT DEBT

NEW APPLICANTS

What was the original disbursement amount of your student loans? \$ _____
Be sure to include student debt incurred prior to and during your employment with MCPS)

What was your balance as of December 31 of last year? \$ _____

Date you attended the Student Debt Relief workshop. ____/____/____

PREVIOUSLY APPROVED APPLICANTS

What was your balance as of December 31 of last year? \$ _____

Have you attached a copy of your monthly loan statement showing you are in good standing? Yes No

Previously approved applicants are not required to attend the Student Debt Relief workshop.

EMPLOYEE SIGNATURE

I certify that all of the information I have provided on this form and in any accompanying document is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. I understand that my electronic submission of this form and my electronic signature are intended to be, constitute, and are equivalent to my personal signature.

Employee's Signature _____ Date ____/____/____

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY:

Date of Receipt: ____/____/____ Date of Processing: ____/____/____ Approve Yes No

Amount: _____ Date of disbursement: ____/____/____