



## **Teacher Education Loans and Grants Program Summary**

### **Spring 2011**

#### **Introduction**

The Association of Waldorf Schools of North America (AWSNA) is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to strengthen and support Waldorf schools and teacher education institutes throughout North America. One aspect of this is providing financial assistance to people training to be Waldorf teachers in the United States, Canada, and Mexico. These programs are made possible by contributions to AWSNA from member and sponsored schools and institutes, and by grants from various foundations, including the Waldorf Education Foundation.

We are pleased to be able to offer two programs for this purpose:

1. **Teacher Education Loans Program**, in which funds that are borrowed from AWSNA can be forgiven if graduates of education programs teach three-quarter to full-time in AWSNA- or WECAN-affiliated Waldorf schools.
2. **Currently Practicing Teacher (CPT) Matching Grant Program** for people already teaching in AWSNA- or WECAN-affiliated schools as they pursue their training, in which AWSNA provides outright grants that are matched by the school at which the applicant is teaching.

#### **1. Teacher Education Loans Program**

This program is designed for students completing their Waldorf teacher education programs, with the intention of becoming full-time Waldorf teachers at AWSNA- or WECAN-affiliated Waldorf schools in North America.

- o Foundation year students are not eligible for these funds.
- o The amount of the loans varies each year and depends on the funding available.
- o Funds are distributed as a loan, repayable to AWSNA. Each consecutive year that the recipient works three-quarter to full-time at an AWSNA-affiliated Waldorf school (or WECAN-affiliated early childhood program) upon graduation, one-third of the original loan amount will be forgiven.
- o Loans are interest-free during study and while working full-time as a Waldorf teacher. Failure to complete the training, or to teach full time at a school as

described above upon graduation, will cause the loan to become due and payable, as described in the Teacher Education Fund loan contract.

### **How to Apply**

- Students apply for AWSNA teacher education loans directly through the educational institute they are attending. Please contact the registrar or financial officer for an application. Your application will be reviewed by the institute and submitted along with other applications for the funds allocated to that institution.
- Application deadlines are set by the institute, but are generally set in late May for summer and fall enrollment. Consult your institute for exact dates for application and award notification. Funds are distributed directly to the institute as tuition payments.

## **2. Currently Practicing Teacher Matching Grant Program**

This program is designed for individuals currently working in AWSNA-affiliated Waldorf schools who are completing the coursework for a Waldorf teaching certificate.

- All grants are contingent on a matching grant from the school at which the grant recipient teaches.
- The amount of the grants varies each year and depends on the funding available.
- Where the combined total of AWSNA and school matching grants does not reach 100% of tuition, applicants may also apply for a teacher education loan with the approval of the teacher-training institute.

### **How to Apply**

- Students apply for AWSNA currently-practicing-teacher grants directly through the educational institute they are attending. Please contact the registrar or financial officer for an application. Your application will be reviewed by the institute and submitted along with other applications for the funds allocated to that institution.
- The application must be accompanied by a letter from the school where the applicant teaches, specifying the maximum amount of matching funds the school will commit.
- Application deadlines are set by the institute, but are generally set in late May for summer and fall enrollment. Consult your institute for exact dates for application and award notification. Funds are distributed directly to the institute as tuition payments.