

My name is Susan Hester, and I am the Black Belt Teacher Corps scholarship program director. To impact more of our Black Belt region classrooms, I am inviting all University of West Alabama junior/senior education majors who meet eligibility requirements (see scholarship application) to apply. Each semester the scholarship is active, the award is $2,500.00 (up to a maximum of $10,000).

The scholarship allows our BBTC teachers to complete their required years of service in an Alabama Black Belt region public school, an Alabama public school designated as rural, or an Alabama public school considered high-needs by the ALSDE.

There will be a sliding scale of the service teaching time required based on the amount of scholarship awarded. Interns receiving one semester of scholarship funding ($2,500.00) must commit to teaching for one (1) full calendar year within twelve (12) months of certification and receive ALSDE certification within twelve (12) months of the initially expected graduation date. Seniors receiving two semesters of scholarship funding ($5,000.00) must commit to teaching for at least two (2) full calendar years within twelve (12) months of certification and receive ALSDE certification within twelve (12) months of the initially expected graduation date. Those receiving three (3) or four (4) semesters of scholarship funding ($10,000.00) must commit to all of the same stipulations, but the commitment to teach is for at least three (3) years.

The Black Belt region counties that fit under this scholarship umbrella include: Lamar, Pickens, Sumter, Choctaw, Washington, Greene, Hale, Marengo, Clarke, Perry, Dallas, Wilcox, Monroe, Conecuh, Escambia, Lowndes, Butler, Crenshaw, Montgomery, Macon, Pike, Bullock, Russell, and Barbour.

To check to see if the schools you are interested in teaching at are considered rural, please use this link: [https://nces.ed.gov/programs/maped/LocaleLookup/](https://nces.ed.gov/programs/maped/LocaleLookup/%20)

Simply enter the school's name to search for its location and use the key to determine its designation.

High-needs districts usually include schools with critical teacher shortages, content area teacher shortages, high poverty, low performance on state assessments, or large percentages of teachers teaching without certification or outside their certification field. To see if the schools you are interested in teaching at fit any of these criteria, please use this link:

<https://reportcard.alsde.edu/SelectSchool.aspx>