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# **South Dakota**

## **Critical Teaching Needs Scholarship**

**Board Meeting**  
**February 12, 2026**

# AGENDA

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Approval of the Agenda

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Schedule Next Meeting

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Approval of the Minutes – October 16, 2025

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Budget Update

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2026-2027 CTNS Application Process

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Communications

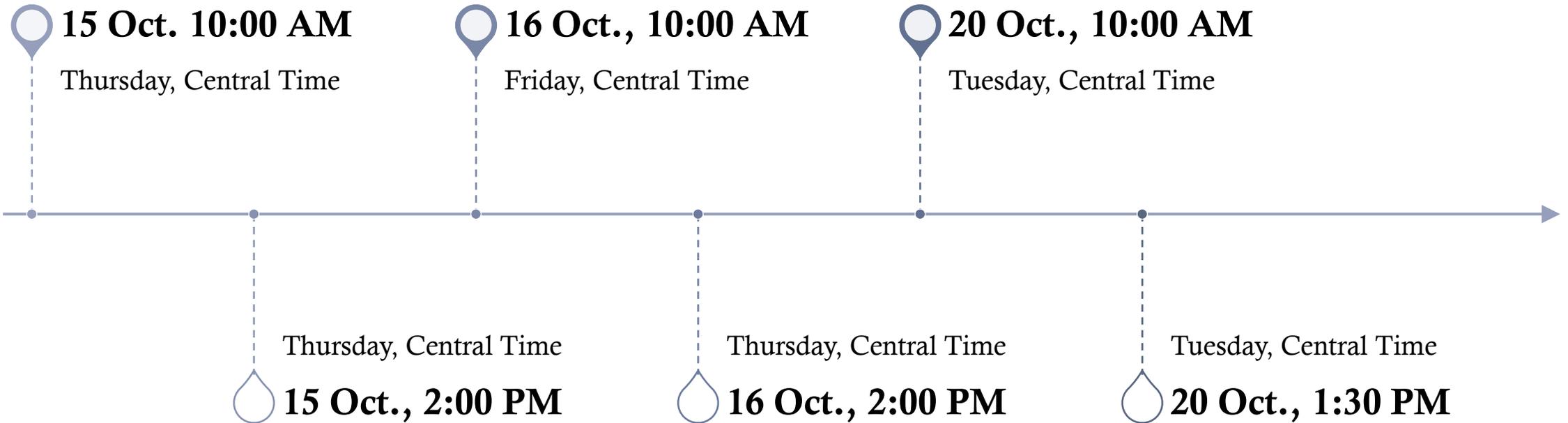
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Executive Session – Approve Awardees

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# NEXT MEETING – FALL 2026



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# APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES –

## OCTOBER 16, 2025

# BUDGET UPDATE

You may be eligible for the...

# CRITICAL TEACHING NEEDS SCHOLARSHIP

## Post-Secondary Scholarship Fund

### Critical Teaching Needs Scholarship -&- Need Based Scholarship Allocations

<b>FY25 Total Interest Earned Allocation</b>	<b>\$404,940</b>	<b>NB 75%</b>	<b>\$258,908.25</b>
2026 CTNS Separated Allocation <sup>a</sup>	\$59,729	CTNS 25%	\$86,302.75
Remaining for 75:25 Split Allocation <sup>b</sup>	\$345,211		\$345,211.00

**Total available for CTNS \$146,032**

### THE CRITICAL TEACHING NEEDS SCHOLARSHIP

opens doors for students preparing to work in a critical need teaching area. Students who will be juniors or seniors in the upcoming academic year and who are accepted into an elementary or secondary education program at a participating South Dakota post-secondary institution are eligible to apply!

*All K-12 Teaching Positions are considered critical need occupations!*

**APPLY NOVEMBER 1 - DECEMBER 15**  
visit [sdbor.edu/scholarships](http://sdbor.edu/scholarships)

### ELIGIBILITY FOR AWARD

- Agree in writing to stay in South Dakota and work in a critical teaching need occupation for five years after graduating from a participating post secondary institution;
- To qualify, you must be an undergraduate at a participating South Dakota institution during your final two years and fully admitted to an elementary or secondary education program in a critical need teaching area; and
- Have a minimum cumulative 2.8 GPA, and an average of 2.8 GPA for all major coursework.

### AWARD DETAILS

- The Critical Teaching Needs Scholarship Board determines the scholarship amount awarded.
- However, the award amount will consider the student's remaining financial need and will not exceed the maximum tuition and applicable fees for 30 credit hours at a SD Board of Regents institution.
- Not all eligible applicants will receive a scholarship; only a limited number will be selected. All applicants will be notified after the Board makes its decision.
- If the student is awarded funding in their third year of school, this scholarship is renewable for their fourth year as well.

### THE CRITICAL TEACHING NEEDS COMMITMENT

- Recipients must agree to work for five years in a critical need teaching position in South Dakota after completing their program of study.
- If the recipient does not complete his/her commitment, the scholarship converts to a low interest loan which must be repaid.



SCAN HERE  
TO LEARN MORE  
AND APPLY!

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# 2026-2027 CTNS APPLICATION PROCESS

- Updated Application, Open November 1-December 15
- Created an Application Evaluation Sub-Committee
- Criteria
  - SD Critical Need – Teacher Openings, Department of Labor Statistics
  - Major
  - GPA
  - Essay Evaluation

# COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES

- SD Scholarship Bulletin Board
- Webinars and Student Presentations
- Email Notifications

**From:** South Dakota Board of Regents <[no-reply@sdbor.edu](mailto:no-reply@sdbor.edu)>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 3, 2025 12:27 PM  
**To:** Weisgram, Molly <[Molly.Weisgram@sdbor.edu](mailto:Molly.Weisgram@sdbor.edu)>  
**Subject:** Critical Teaching Needs Scholarship – Application Open (Nov. 1-Dec. 15)

Hello Molly,

The **Critical Teaching Needs Scholarship (CTNS)** opens doors for students preparing to be K-12 teachers in South Dakota.

Students who will be college juniors or seniors in the next academic year and who are accepted into an elementary or secondary education program at a participating South Dakota university are eligible to apply!

#### Eligibility Requirements:

- Attend a participating college (includes all SD public universities)
- Be a junior or senior in college fully admitted in elementary or secondary education program
- Have a minimum cumulative 2.8 GPA on a 4.0 scale
- Be a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident
- Agrees to work in a K-12 teaching position in SD for 5 years after graduation\*

*\*If recipient does not work in a K-12 teaching position in SD for five years following graduation, this scholarship will be converted to a low-interest loan.*

#### Award Details:

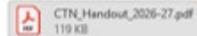
- The CTNS Board determines the scholarship amount, but state law caps the award at the maximum tuition & fees for 30 credit hours at a SD Board of Regents university.
- For those awarded in their third year of post-secondary education, this scholarship is renewable for one year.

**Apply now through December 15, 2025**, for 2026-2027 funding, at [sdbor.edu/scholarships](http://sdbor.edu/scholarships).

Find more information about the Critical Teaching Needs Scholarship [here](http://sdbor.edu/scholarships).

**Questions?** Send to [scholarships@sdbor.edu](mailto:scholarships@sdbor.edu).

#### Critical Teaching Needs Scholarship – Application Open (Nov. 1-Dec. 15)



All,

The Critical Teaching Needs Scholarship (CTNS) application for funding in the 2026-2027 school year will be open November 1 through December 15, 2025.

**Help Spread the Word:** We know your institutions play an important role in promoting the opportunity and encouraging students to apply too, so we've created the attached CTNS Flyer for you to disseminate as you see fit. Thanks in advance for helping us communicate this scholarship opportunity!

**NEW!** The CTNS Board has made two important changes for the 2026-2027 application period:

1. They have deemed **all K-12 teaching positions** critical need.
2. This scholarship is **renewable** for an additional year for students who are first awarded for funding in their junior year.

#### Eligibility Requirements:

- Attend a participating college
- Be a junior or senior in college fully admitted in elementary or secondary education program
- Have a minimum cumulative 2.8 GPA on a 4.0 scale
- Be a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident
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Students can **apply November 1 through December 15, 2025**, for 2026-2027 funding, at [sdbor.edu/scholarships](http://sdbor.edu/scholarships).

More information about the Critical Teaching Needs Scholarship can be found [here](http://sdbor.edu/scholarships).

Molly



Molly Weisgram  
System Academic Program Manager  
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(P) 605-773-3455 | [Molly.Weisgram@sdbor.edu](mailto:Molly.Weisgram@sdbor.edu)

You may be eligible for the...

# CRITICAL TEACHING NEEDS SCHOLARSHIP

## THE CRITICAL TEACHING NEEDS SCHOLARSHIP

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Critical Teaching Needs Scholarship



**EXECUTIVE  
SESSION**