

**Acknowledgement And Acceptance Of Service Obligation
For Support From The Transdisciplinary Autism Specialty Project**
Fed ID #-----

The Transdisciplinary Autism Specialty Project (TASP) is funded by The U.S. Department Of Education, Office Of Special Education Programs (OSEP) under authorization by section 673(h) of IDEA, which requires that individuals who receive a "scholarship" through personnel preparation projects must subsequently provide special education or related services to children with disabilities for a period of two years for every year for which assistance was received. Scholarship recipients who do not satisfy their service obligation through school-based employment must repay all or part of the cost of their assistance in accordance with these federal regulations.

Scholarship refers to all types of financial assistance received from the project (e.g., allowances, stipends). The service requirement is based on the period for which the scholar receives assistance, not on the amount of assistance received.

The **service obligation** provisions of the federal regulations specify that the scholar must serve in a position in which the individual spends a majority of his or her time providing special education, related, or early intervention services in the schools. Part-time employment is accumulated toward meeting the equivalent of the full-time service obligation.

Federal regulations provide for an additional three years beyond the number of years required by the Act, to complete the service obligation. Thus, a scholar with a four-year service obligation has seven years to fulfill that requirement.

The full-time year-long School Psychology Internship (or its part-time equivalent) may be applied as the first year of full-time service obligation *if* the intern does not receive a scholarship from the project during that internship.

The regulations apply to **training program dropouts** in the same manner as other scholarship recipients. Dropouts who had received scholarship assistance and are not able to meet their service obligation (due to lack of qualifications) must payback their scholarships.

Exemption to the repayment requirement will be granted *if* the scholar (a) is unable to continue the course of study or fulfill the service obligation because of a disability that is expected to continue indefinitely or (b) has died.

Deferral of the service obligation and/or repayment requirement *may* be granted during the time the scholar (a) is engaging in a full-time course of study at an institution of higher education, (b) is serving, not in excess of three years, on active duty as a member of the armed services of the United States; (c) is serving as a volunteer under the Peace Corps Act; (d) is serving as a full-time volunteer under Title I of the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973, (e) has a disability which prevents the individual from working for a period not to exceed three years; or (f) is unable to secure employment as required by the agreement for reason of the care provided to a disabled family member for a period not to exceed 12 months.

Scholars are **required to notify** the TASP Project Office of changes in address, employment setting, or employment status throughout the duration of the service obligation and their progress toward meeting the work requirements.

If a scholar fails to meet the terms and conditions of this scholarship agreement, or to obtain a deferral or an exemption, the scholar must repay all or part of the scholarship assistance to the U.S. Secretary of Education as follows:

- (a) **Amount** to be repaid is proportional to the service obligation not completed.
- (b) The Secretary charges the scholar **interest** on the unpaid balance owed.
- (c) (1) Interest on the unpaid balance accrues from the date the scholar is determined to have entered repayment status; (2) any accrued interest is capitalized at the time the scholar's repayment schedule is established; (3) no interest is charged for the period of time the scholar's repayment schedule is established.
- (d) The Secretary may impose reasonable **collection costs**.
- (e) A scholar enters **repayment status** on the first day of the first calendar month after the earliest of the following dates, as applicable: (1) the date the scholar informs the Program that he or she does not plan to fulfill the service obligation under the agreement; (2) any date when the scholar's failure to begin or maintain employment makes it impossible for that individual to complete the service obligation within the number of years required; (3) any date on which the scholar discontinues enrollment in the course of study.
- (f) The scholar must make payments to the Secretary that cover principal, interest, and collection costs according to a schedule established by the Secretary.

I hereby acknowledge the four-year service obligation in return for scholarship from the TASP Project in 2005-2007. I understand and accept the terms of service obligation as well as the payback provision of this agreement. I will notify the TASP Project Office of changes in address and employment setting/status throughout the service obligation period and will complete the annual follow-up forms to communicate my progress toward fulfilling the service obligation.

Signature _____ Date _____

Printed Name _____ Student Number _____