

**The George Washington University  
Graduate School of Education and Human Development  
Department of Teacher Preparation and Special Education**



**Loudoun Initiative For Teachers (LIFT)**

**Program Description**

The Loudoun Initiative For Teachers (LIFT) is a cooperative effort between The George Washington University (GW) Virginia Campus and Loudoun County Public Schools (LCPS) in the rapidly expanding, increasingly diverse Loudoun County, Virginia. The purpose of this program is to recruit highly qualified individuals from diverse backgrounds to the teaching profession. Eligible participants obtain secondary teacher licensure in English, mathematics, science (biology, chemistry, physics), social studies, K-12 licensure in English as a second language or foreign language after completing an intensive one-year internship/course sequence.

Similar to a medical residency, the program places student interns in Loudoun County Public Schools where they function as full-time members of the professional teaching staff. While the primary responsibility of each intern is to act as a permanent substitute teacher in the assigned school, the interns also observe and assist in classrooms on a regular basis, team teach, and in the spring, complete their student teaching requirement. They are observed and supervised by members of the secondary education faculty and staff of GW during the year-long school placement and complete the necessary coursework required for teacher licensure through evening and summer classes at GW. The program begins in August (May for ESL) and coursework continues through the following August.

Partnership participants are considered full-time students at GW for the duration of the program, and are entitled to all benefits accorded full-time students at the University. **Tuition for 24 credit hours of coursework and \$6,000 stipend are paid through a scholarship supported by Loudoun County Public Schools and GW (pending final approval of the School Board FY09 Budget).** The additional credits required for ESL licensure are the financial responsibility of the participant.

Participants are selected according to the University criteria established for entrance into the Graduate School of Education and Human Development graduate programs, on the basis of a group interview with the project director, as well as an individual interview with the content advisor. **LCPS is committed to diversifying their teaching population to reflect the composition of their student body. Emphasis is on recruiting Asian, Indian, Middle Eastern, Pacific Islander, as well as African-American and Latino applicants.**

**Additional Information**

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