Boston College
Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts

Institution Contact Information:

First Name: Elizabeth **Last Name:** Mullin
Title: English Teacher
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TEACH Grant Recipient

First Name: Elizabeth **Last Name:** Mullin

Student Profile:

I utilized my $4000 TEACH grant to lessen the burden of my student loans. I am proud to be a teacher, and I work very hard. I know that I will never make "six figures," and that is okay. The thing is, my yearly salary still does not match the amount of my initial loan to attend Boston College, where I received my master's degree in teaching. The TEACH grant is so important because it gives recipients some sense of debt relief and more importantly, some sense of recognition from the federal government that what we are doing is appreciated. Along with other federal programs such as the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program and the Perkins Loan, the Teach Grant also literally makes it possible for people to work as public school teachers--a career that requires a master's degree, but has a salary that ranks #213 compared to other professions that require a master's (Payscale.com). If our federal government is really considering defunding these programs, then it must ask itself, truly, what it values--and what its hope are for the future of education in this country--and at least be frank about it. Then, it can congratulate itself as less and less people go into teaching, and more and more teachers leave the profession (because they will not be able to pay off their loans working in it). If the government cares about public education, then it has to care about teachers and their financial well-being.