

INFORMATION PAPER

AHRC-PDP-E
February 2024

SUBJECT: Post 9/11 GI Bill Education Benefits-Transfer of Education Benefits (TEB)

1. Purpose: To provide information to Soldiers interested in enrollment in Post 9/11 GI Bill and transfer of benefits to Family Members.

2. Facts.

a. The National Defense Authorization Act of 2008 amended Title 38, US Code to include Post 9/11 GI Bill, also known as Chapter 33, and TEB. The effective date of the change was 1 August 2009. Since the start of the program, more than 190,000 Active Duty Soldiers and 60,000 Reserve Soldiers have requested to transfer Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits to their Family Members.

b. Soldiers and Veterans who have decided to switch to the Post 9/11 GI Bill and are ready to use their benefits must apply to the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) via www.va.gov. The decision to change education benefits is irrevocable. Soldiers must be cautious and thoroughly understand their current benefits (i.e., Montgomery GI Bill or Vietnam Era GI Bill) and compare with benefits under the Post 9/11 GI Bill. A comparison chart is included on the DVA's website.

c. Soldiers may request to transfer education benefits via <http://milconnect.dmdc.mil>. Benefits must be transferred prior to the Soldiers' separation or retirement from service. Soldiers must ensure that each eligible Family Member has at least one month of benefit designated to be able to transfer additional months of benefits at a later date. Soldiers are advised to keep a copy of the approved request showing the number of months of benefits transferred to each Family Member for their personal file.

d. Only Soldiers who meet the eligibility requirements are authorized to transfer benefits to Family Members who are listed as eligible in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) and reflect eligibility in the TEB website. Eligibility requirements: Soldier must be eligible for the Post 9/11 GI Bill, have at least six years of military service and agree to serve an additional four years when the request to transfer benefits is submitted (only military service counts toward the six year requirement), and have no adverse action flag.

e. Exception: The Secretary of Defense made an exception via Directive-Type Memorandum (DTM) 18-006 effective 31 August 2018 to allow any Service Member with a Purple Heart to transfer education benefits to eligible dependents on/after 31 August 2018 while the Service Member was in Active Duty or Selected Reserve status with any years of service and with no requirement to commit to four years from the TEB

request date. This exception applies to Soldiers in the IDES process also and after departing IDES status.

(1) Transfer to Spouse. The begin date can be no sooner than the TEB request date. The begin date can be later than the TEB request date if the spouse starts school after the TEB request date. The end date is not required in TEB but the Soldier may estimate this date. The spouse may use the benefit only after the TEB request has been approved via the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) TEB website. The spouse must apply to the DVA for a Certificate of Eligibility via www.va.gov when the spouse is ready to use the benefit. The spouse will be paid at the rate of the Soldier. If the Soldier is on Active Duty the spouse will not receive the housing stipend since the Soldier already receives a housing stipend - Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH); if the Soldier is not on Active Duty, the spouse will receive the housing stipend since the Soldier is no longer receiving BAH. Active Duty Soldiers/Veterans and Dependent transferees are eligible for up to \$1000 book stipend annually (paid based on rate of pursuit and percentage payable rate).

(2) Transfer to Children. Benefits must be transferred to the child prior to the child's 23rd birthday. The begin date can be no sooner than the TEB request date. The begin date can be later than the TEB request date if the child starts school after the TEB request date. The child may use the benefit only after the TEB request has been approved via the DMDC TEB website, and upon receipt of a secondary school diploma, equivalency certificate, or reaches the age of eighteen. The end date can be any date prior to the child's 26th birthday.

f. Soldiers should consider transferring at least one month to each Family Member listed on the TEB while serving in Active Duty or Selected Reserve status. Once separated from Active Duty or Selected Reserve status, the Veteran can no longer give months to dependents who had "0" months when Veteran left Active Duty or Selected Reserve status. Also, a Veteran cannot give months to a Family Member who became a Family Member after the Veteran left Active Duty or Selected Reserve status (e.g., married or had children after leaving service). At any time, the Soldier or Veteran can change or amend months only between Family Members who had previously received at least 1 month.

g. Active Duty Enlisted Soldiers, Active Duty Officers with the rank of 2LT – COL and WO1 – WO5, or Selected Reserves (Enlisted and Officer) should contact Army Human Resources Command (HRC) Education Incentives Branch usarmy.knox.mbx.tagd-post911qibill@army.mil.

Education Incentives Branch