

The Teaching Training Initiative (TTI) Committee, an *ad hoc* committee created to generate ideas regarding the disbursement of funds raised for teacher training, had fruitful discussions over email during the course of the fall and winter. Below are a series of ideas and initiatives proposed for use of the funds – a set of priorities (though not in a ranked order) to help guide the disbursement. These priorities were agreed upon by the committee’s members in early March, prior to the announcement of the COVID-19 pandemic. Tremendous changes to education at all levels have now ensued and surely will continue in the US and elsewhere going forward. Presumably the landscape of K-12 education will look different by the start of the new school year this fall in ways we can and cannot anticipate, and some of the initiatives detailed below may now be more or less practical or desirable as a result. The need for funding, though, will no doubt be as great if not greater than before.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the committee,

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#### Proposed ideas and initiatives for disbursement of TTI funds

##### **Help with certification costs in a new teacher’s state**

This would be particularly helpful for those who teach at private schools and do not have the state certification required to teach in public schools. Many states offer alternative licensure programs for teachers in this situation, and there is an increasing need for these teachers to become certified. Many private schools are subject to financial hardships and lower enrollment in the current market, and unfortunately Latin programs are typically one of the first to be reduced or eliminated. Having state certification can offer Latin teachers more job security. Cost will depend on the state, but some assistance through the TTI would certainly be helpful for teachers whose schools will not pay for this kind of thing.

##### **Organized training experiences**

Funding to participate in:

- training sessions, especially pedagogy training that is steered towards Comprehensible Input or TPRS (iFLT, Express Fluency, etc.), workshops, and conferences such as Mitten CI (in Michigan), CI Liftoff with Tina Hargaden, and the ACL Institute. CI has been mentioned in more K-12 job advertisements and this is something new teachers might not be equipped for at the start of their careers.
- workshops for doing hands-on activities that can supplement more traditional learning activities in language-intensive classes such as making wax-tablets or curse-tablets, making papyrus, tunica-/toga-making etc.
- training in ‘Gamification’ of the classroom (i.e., training in use of online platforms, physical board games, and materials that can be printed out for ready use)

**Mentoring experiences**

Funding for workshops (for students or new teachers) with visiting teachers who can share their experience of job-hunting and teaching. In particular, help from experienced teachers on aspects of general education such as: discipline for specific grade levels; course planning before the school year starts and how to approach it; as well as Classics specific topics such as: balancing culture, history, grammar, reading, and speaking in the classroom while making it through a text in a year, how to grade translation-based quizzes and tests.

**Various start-up costs**

Some new teachers may simply need smaller funds to get things for their classrooms. For instance, some world language teachers have turned to Go Fund Me to get comprehensible novellas for their classrooms, so this may be a need for many WL teachers in underfunded schools. Others have found themselves in situations where they did not have textbooks, access to paper, supplies like toner and Expo markers. Additionally, funds for classroom set-up including classroom decoration would be welcome. Funding for a “starter kit” that is field-specific could be very helpful (i.e., a classroom grammar that is grade-level appropriate, a dictionary for class use, potentially other textbooks that you are not using for the same grade, a teaching book that relates to Classics).