



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 14, 2021

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents
Public School Academy Directors

FROM: Dr. Scott M. Koenigsknecht, Deputy Superintendent
P-20 System and Student Transitions

**SUBJECT: UPDATE TO MEMO #COVID-19-187 - Special Education Teacher
Tuition Reimbursement Grant**

*(Updating this memorandum to change the application deadline date from
September 30, 2021 to 2022.)*

As evident throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and in response to the ongoing and substantial need to provide appropriately certified and endorsed teachers for students with disabilities, the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) is offering a special education teacher tuition reimbursement grant opportunity. Utilizing \$700,000 in federal IDEA Part B funds, this grant will be made available beginning May 14, 2021 until the available funds are used. The application deadline for this grant opportunity will be available to eligible staff through September 30, **2022**.

Districts eligible to apply for the grant must have a 60 percent or higher free and reduced-priced meals student population, based on the fall 2019 data. A link to the list of eligible districts can be found below.

The special education teacher tuition reimbursement grant funds are intended to incentivize certified Michigan teachers to earn an additional endorsement in special education for employment in a program where they are currently not qualified. Districts must continue to follow the [Special Education Personnel Approvals](#) process for employing teachers under initial temporary approval.

Tuition reimbursement is available for all teachers employed under an initial special education teacher temporary approval following the May 14, 2021 implementation date. MDE will fulfill all eligible requests as they come in until the funds are exhausted. The tuition reimbursement will be made to the district in a timely manner following submission of the [Special Education Teacher Tuition Reimbursement Grant Application](#).

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The special education teacher tuition reimbursement grant can be used to cover tuition costs up to \$800 per credit for a maximum of six credits per year per teacher for up to three years. Tuition reimbursement does not apply to repeat courses.

For more information, visit the [Special Education Teacher Tuition Reimbursement Grant](#) webpage on MDE's Office of Special Education [funding website](#) or use the following links:

- Informational webinar – Coming Soon!
- [Eligible Districts](#)
- [Special Education Teacher Tuition Reimbursement Grant Application](#)
- [Reimbursement Grant Questions Form](#)

cc: Michigan Education Alliance
Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Directors