



Michigan Department of Education Office of Special Education
Revised March 2025

Special Education Teacher Tuition Reimbursement Grant

Frequently Asked Questions

Below are some frequently asked questions and answers to those questions. For more detailed information on this grant and additional resources, go to the [Special Education Teacher Tuition Reimbursement Grant](#) webpage. For more information on Special Education Temporary Approvals, a requirement of the grant, go to the [Special Education Personnel Approval System](#) webpage.

Q: What should a district or ISD do first if they are interested in this grant?

A: The first step is to hire a teacher under an initial temporary approval with an effective date 5/14/2021 – 9/30/2027. For more information on Special Education Temporary Approvals, go to the [Special Education Personnel Approval System](#) webpage.

Q: I am a district administrator working on the grant application for one of my teachers. Do I submit multiple applications if they are taking multiple courses?

A: Multiple courses for one teacher may be submitted on the same application. You will, however, need to combine all the paid receipts into one PDF for upload. After the initial application, to request reimbursement for additional courses, use the same [grant application link](#) to request reimbursement and submit the required documentation.

Q: I am a teacher at District ABC. How do I apply for this grant?

A: Applications must be submitted by the hiring *district*. Grant requirements may be found on the [Special Education Teacher Tuition Reimbursement Grant](#) webpage.

Q: Can a district apply on behalf of a teacher working under an emergency certificate, substitute permit, or waiver to teach special education?

A: An eligible district may apply for the grant when a teacher has been hired under an initial temporary approval with an effective date 5/14/21 – 9/30/27. Teachers hired under emergency certificates, substitute permits, or waivers are not eligible for this grant. For more information, see the [Special Education Personnel Approval System](#) webpage.



Q: Does this grant cover a special education teacher working on his/her Master's in Special Education?

A: An eligible district may apply for the grant when a teacher has been hired under an initial temporary approval with an effective date 5/13/2021 – 9/30/2027. Eligible courses are those that are toward a special education endorsement in the area for which the initial temporary approval was issued. For more information, see the [Special Education Personnel Approval System](#) webpage.

Q: Does the teacher have to be enrolled in a Michigan school to qualify for this grant?

A: Per the Special Education Teacher Approval System requirements, endorsements must be obtained from an approved Michigan educator preparation program matching the category of assignment. More information can be found on the [Special Education Personnel Approval System](#) webpage.

Q: Can the grant funding go directly to the teacher?

A: No. A district administrator must apply for the reimbursement, and the reimbursement will be sent to the district address on file in the [Educational Entity Master \(EEM\)](#). The district and teacher must work together to determine how courses will be paid for and how the teacher will be reimbursed if the teacher is required to pay the tuition upfront.

Q: I have a teacher with an initial temporary approval dated prior to 5/14/2021. Is that teacher eligible for this program?

A: An eligible district may apply for the grant when a teacher has been hired under an initial temporary approval with an effective date 5/14/2021 – 9/30/2027. For more information, see the [Special Education Personnel Approval System](#) webpage.

Q: Can my district apply for all three-years now to ensure I will have the money I need to complete my endorsement?

A: Reimbursement for the courses required for the endorsement can be applied for **after** the courses have been paid for by using the [grant application](#) to request reimbursement and submit the required documentation. If the grant criteria continue to be met after the 1st application is approved, enough funding has been set aside to reimburse for all 18 credits of the endorsement.



Q: I'm a teacher who already has a special education endorsement. If I would like to obtain an additional special education endorsement, would I this qualify under the grant?

A: An eligible **district** may apply for the grant when a teacher has been hired under an initial temporary approval with an effective date 5/14/2021 – 9/30/2027. If the teacher is hired under an initial temporary approval within this time frame, they are eligible regardless of whether the special education endorsement is their first endorsement or not. For more information, see the [Special Education Personnel Approval System](#) webpage.

Q: Do we have to resubmit on an annual basis?

A: The application needs to be submitted with paid receipts and the other required documentation each time the district is requesting reimbursement. The district can choose to submit for reimbursement for one course at a time or multiple courses. After the initial application, when additional courses are paid for, use the same [grant application link](#) to request reimbursement and submit the required documentation.

Q: It looks like we have to fill out a separate form for not only each person we are seeking reimbursement for, but also each course. Is this correct?

A: One application must be submitted for each teacher. If you are submitting for multiple courses for one teacher, you may list all of them on one form and combine the paid receipts into one PDF for upload. After the initial application, when you are ready to submit for reimbursement for additional courses, use the same [grant application link](#) to request reimbursement and submit the required documentation.

Q: Who will be sending the reimbursement check?

A: Reimbursement checks will be processed and distributed by Marquette Alger RESA, the fiscal agent for this grant.

Q: I am a teacher. If the money goes to the district, and not me, how will I pay the balance?

A: The district must apply for the grant. The teacher must work with the district to determine how courses will be paid for and how the teacher will be reimbursed if the teacher is required to pay the tuition upfront.



Q: I have a bachelor’s degree in special education. Can I apply for the tuition reimbursement to pay towards my current loans?

A: No. An eligible **district** may apply for the grant when a teacher has been hired under an initial temporary approval with an effective date 5/14/21 – 9/30/2027. Eligible courses are those that are toward a special education endorsement in the area for which the initial temporary approval was issued. The grant is not for courses taken prior to the initial temporary approval.

Q: Is the District responsible for paying for tuition?

A: No. The district or the teacher may pay the tuition upfront, however, the reimbursement will be issued to the district regardless of who paid the tuition. If the teacher paid the tuition, it is up to the district to reimburse the teacher according to the district’s agreement with the teacher.

Q: Are books and other class materials reimbursable through this program?

A: No. Only tuition is reimbursable through this grant.

Q: Does this grant only apply to those who already have a special education teaching certificate and are looking to add another endorsement, or could this work for teachers who have a general education certificate and are looking to add a special education endorsement?

A: As long as the district follows the Special Education Personnel Approvals process and hires a teacher for a position under an initial temporary approval with an effective date 5/14/21 – 9/30/27, the district can apply for the grant. One of the requirements of the grant is the teacher has a current Michigan Teaching Certificate, but they do not already have to have a special education endorsement. It can be their first endorsement or an additional endorsement as long as it’s the endorsement required for the position they were hired for under the initial temporary approval.

Q: Which districts are eligible to apply for this grant? Are ISDs eligible to apply?

A: All districts and ISDs are eligible to apply for the grant on behalf of teachers hired under an initial temporary approval with an effective date 5/14/21 – 9/30/2027.



Q: I currently have a student teacher working on their student teaching from August 2024 to December 2024. Afterwards, we would like to know if they would be able to enroll in a special education teacher program and be eligible for this tuition reimbursement grant?

A: After they become certified to teach in Michigan if the district follows the Special Education Personnel Approvals process and hires them under an initial temporary approval with an effective date of 5/14/21 – 9/30/2027, the district can apply for the grant. As long as all requirements are met, the application would be approved. Also, it is up to the teacher and the district to come to an agreement on who will pay the tuition upfront. The reimbursement will be issued to the district regardless of who paid the tuition. If the teacher paid the tuition, it is up to the district to reimburse the teacher according to the district's agreement with the teacher.

Q: Are currently employed teachers eligible?

A: As long as the district follows the [Special Education Personnel Approvals](#) process and hires a teacher for a position under an initial temporary approval with an effective date of 5/14/21 – 9/30/2027 and meets the other requirements of the grant, the district can apply for the grant. If the process is followed correctly, a currently employed teacher can be hired to fill a vacant Special Education teacher position under an initial temporary approval.

Q: What happens if the grant funding runs out part way through the temporary approval process?

A: Grant funding will not run out based on the current criteria.

Q: If my district applies for this grant for me, and I earn my endorsement, do I have to continue teaching in that district after my degree is completed?

A: The grant itself does not have a requirement regarding working for a district for a certain number of years following the completion of the special education endorsement. Such an agreement would be between the district and the teacher.