

Special Education Teacher Pipeline Grant

Paraprofessional and other non-licensed support staff overview

Scope of grant

- 1.2 million dollars
- Five-year grant period
 - Start Date: February 5, 2024
 - End Date: January 31, 2029
- Two main priorities
 - Tier 2 and 1 teachers
 - Paraprofessionals or other non-licensed staff
 - Must be a current district employee to access grant funding

Paraprofessionals and other non-licensed staff

- Participants will complete coursework and obtain a special education degree from one of our TPP partners and earn their Tier 3 license
- Participants remain employed in the district while completing coursework and clinicals

Teacher preparation partners

- Participants can choose from one of our designated partners
 - Bemidji State University
 - St. Cloud State University
 - University of Minnesota Twin Cities
 - Southwest Minnesota State
 - Western Governors University (CAEP)
- Coursework can provisionally begin this summer, but most likely is Fall 2024, based on TPP

Approved licenses

This grant supports any eligible employee to pursue any special education licensure area, including Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) or Deaf or Hard of Hearing (DHH). The list of licenses this program covers are:

- SPED: Academic and Behavioral Specialist
- SPED: Emotional Behavior Disorders
- SPED: Learning Disabilities
- SPED: Autism Spectrum Disorders
- SPED: Developmental Adapted Physical Education

Approved licenses, continued

- SPED: Physical and Health Disabilities
- SPED: Oral/Aural Deaf Education
- SPED: Deaf or Hard of Hearing
- SPED: Blind or Visually Impaired
- SPED: Early Childhood
- SPED: Developmental Disabilities

Benefits to participants

- Grant funding: what is “covered”?
 - Covers the full cost of tuition not covered by other grants and scholarships
 - Covers needed books
 - Covers related university fees
 - Billing goes directly to grant program coordinator, not participants
 - Payments go directly to the university, not the participant

Commitments from participants

- Participants must demonstrate a willingness to be a SPED teacher in Region 5 after completing the program
- Participants must complete FAFSA
- Participants must sign FERPA allowing us access to monitor academic progress
- Participants must make satisfactory academic progress as defined by the teacher preparation provider (TPP) to continue to receive grant funding

Collaboration with your district

- Districts will have a point of contact related to this grant
- District device can be used for coursework
- Districts and buildings will demonstrate needed flexibility to complete clinical experiences and student teaching
- Participants must communicate in advance and often with district point of contact and building leader(s) and grant coordinator



Frequently asked questions:

Q: I understand the eligible participants are employees, do they need to be full time? Can this include people who regularly sub and/or fill our SPED teacher leaves of absence?

A: The employees do not need to be full-time. Grantees can set their own parameters for eligibility, provided the participant is an employee.

Q: Does a paraprofessional have to have a BA/college credits to qualify?

A: There is no state requirement for the employee to have college credits or a BA to participate in this grant program. An applicant may design their program to prioritize (for example) those employees who already have a BA or AA, and that would be a local (not state) requirement

Participants' next steps

- Watch for correspondence from Sourcewell acknowledging your interest and next steps
- Begin researching teacher preparation providers
- Watch for TPP information sessions coming in April
- Maintain communication with Sourcewell, your district point of contact for this grant, and your building administrator throughout the duration of your participation

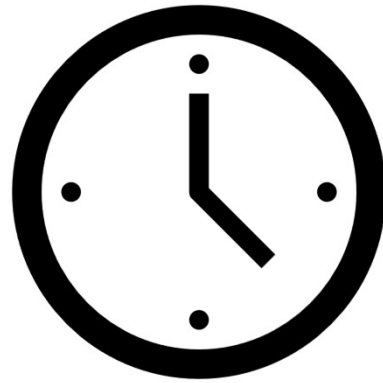
Sourcewell's next steps

- Coordinate scheduling of teacher prep provider information sessions (hosted by TPP)
- Gather and organize participant data
- Continue to refine forms and communication protocols for participants and districts
- Continue to monitor correspondence from legislation and the MDE

“Courses should enthuse, engage and instill you with a renewed excitement about your job.”

- Joe White

Time for questions





Christine Grams

320.630.4495 cell

christine.grams@sourcewell-mn.gov



Joleen De La Hunt

218.255.2174 cell

joleen.delahunt@sourcewell-mn.gov

Thank you!