

Special Education Teacher Pipeline Grant

Tier 2 and Tier 1 teacher 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

Priority 1: Tier 2 teachers

- Tier 2 teachers currently enrolled in a PELSB- approved program can complete with the same program
 - Must complete the survey so we can engage any new teacher preparation providers (TPPs)
 - Chris will reach out to individual teachers in survey to plan
 - Coursework can provisionally resume/complete this summer

Priority 1: Tier 1 teachers

- Tier 1 teachers 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
- Must complete the survey so we can engage any new teacher preparation providers (TPPs)

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
- Participants must communicate in advance and often with district point of contact and building leader(s) and grant coordinator



FAQs:

Q: Would a school be able to use this money to support a teacher who is employed as a Tier 2 special education teacher and is currently in a master's program for special education?

A: Yes. However, grant funding cannot be used retroactively, so expenses incurred prior to the start of the grant cannot be charged to the grant.

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.

Participants' next steps

- Complete survey sent to district leaders, if you have not already done so
- Watch for correspondence from Sourcewell acknowledging your interest and next steps
- Begin researching teacher preparation providers (Tier 1)
- 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

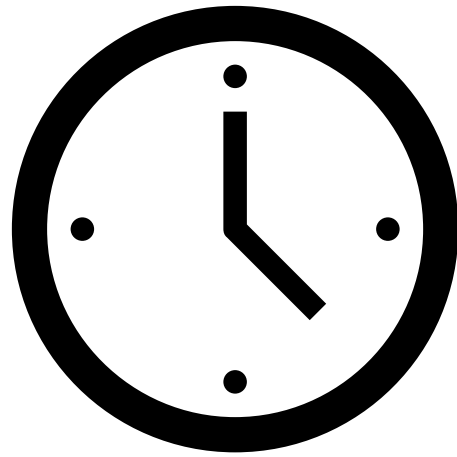
Sourcewell's next steps

- Host paraprofessional information session March 28 from 3:30-4:30
- Coordinate scheduling of TPP information sessions
- 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!