



California Budget Provides \$50 Million for Local Solutions to the Shortage of Special Education Teachers

The 2018-19 state budget includes funding to support the recruitment, preparation, and support of new special education teachers. A total of \$50 million is available for competitive grants to Local Education Agencies (LEAs). The Commission on Teacher Credentialing (Commission) will release a Request for Proposals (RFP) in fall 2018. Applicants may apply for grant funding of up to \$20,000 per teacher participating in the applicant's Local Solutions grant program. The grants will fund recruitment and retention efforts for up to five years, from 2018-19 through June 30, 2023; all grant funds must be expended by grant recipients by June 30, 2026. The grant funds are intended to supplement and not supplant local efforts.

This advisory provides information for any Local Education Agency (LEA) that intends to submit a proposal in response to the RFP. Eligible LEAs are school districts, county offices of education, charter schools, and regional occupational centers or programs operated by a joint powers authority. Charter school management organizations are not eligible applicants. The Local Solutions grants enabling legislation is provided in [Appendix A](#) of this advisory.

Potential applicants should also note that the authorizing legislation requires a 100% match by the grantee LEA for each grant dollar received. The match may be actual funds and/or an in-kind match. Teachers supported by this grant through a service scholarship, signing bonus, or student debt payment have a service obligation to teach for four years in the LEA that supported them in this program.

The grant funds may be used in a variety of ways that meet local LEA special education staffing needs and could include but are not limited to:

- Supporting the costs of identifying, recruiting, and preparing new special education teachers and/or preparation costs for credentialed teachers interested in becoming special education teachers
- Assisting newly credentialed special education teachers with student debt payment
- Supporting the preparation costs of classified personnel, such as special education aides, to become special education teachers
- Supporting the preparation costs of special education candidates to complete an integrated undergraduate program of preparation for an Education Specialist credential
- Providing signing bonuses for newly credentialed special education teachers
- Providing induction for special education teachers
- Providing living stipends for newly credentialed special education teachers
- Other approaches to meeting local staffing needs that would result in increasing the supply of credentialed special education teachers.

The above list of potential solutions is not prescriptive or comprehensive in nature, and applicants are not restricted to the potential solutions indicated in the list. Potential grantees are encouraged to research other evidence of innovative programs and practices designed to recruit, prepare, support and retain special education teachers that may be applicable to the applicant's local context.

Potential applicants should also note that this will be a competitive grant process and only the highest scoring LEA applications will be funded.

For potential applicants who may be interested in partnering with an Education Specialist teacher preparation program as a local solution to meeting the needs for special education teachers, [Appendix B](#) provides a listing of Commission-approved Education Specialist teacher preparation programs. Entities offering an integrated undergraduate program for Education Specialist candidates are noted by an asterisk (*).

The Commission anticipates issuing the RFP on or around September 1, 2018. The RFP will be posted on the Commission's website and will also be available via the Professional Services Division's weekly e-News. To subscribe to the PSD e-News, click on the following link: <https://www.ctc.ca.gov/commission/newsletters/psd-news>. In addition, the Commission plans to offer webinar opportunities for potential applicants regarding successful practices and approaches to addressing the needs for credentialed special education teachers. Information about the upcoming webinar opportunities will be made available on both the Commission's website and in the PSD e-News.

Appendix A

Authorizing Legislation

Section 39: Article 16. Teacher Recruitment, Retention, and Support Grant Programs

44416.

- (a) For the 2018–19 fiscal year, the sum of fifty million dollars (\$50,000,000) is hereby appropriated from the General Fund to the commission to establish the Local Solutions Grant Program to provide one-time competitive grants to local educational agencies to develop and implement new, or expand existing, locally identified solutions that address a local need for special education teachers. This funding shall be available for encumbrance through June 30, 2023, and available for liquidation through June 30, 2026.
- (b) (1) A grant shall be up to twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) per teacher participant that the identified solution proposes to support, matched by that local educational agency or consortium on a dollar-for-dollar basis. Grant program funding may be used for local efforts to recruit, develop support systems for, and retain special education teachers that include, but are not limited to, teacher career pathways, signing bonuses for newly credentialed teachers who earn an education specialist credential, mentors for existing teachers, professional learning communities, service awards, teacher service scholarships, student debt payment, living stipends for newly credentialed teachers who earn an education specialist credential, or other solutions that address a local need for special education teachers.
- (2) (A) A teacher participant who receives a teacher service scholarship, signing bonus, or student debt payment shall agree to teach at a school within the jurisdiction of the grant recipient and work as an education specialist serving a caseload of pupils who receive special education services in a special education setting for four years, and the teacher participant shall have five years to meet that obligation.
- (B) A teacher participant who fails to complete the service obligation described in subparagraph (A) shall reimburse the sponsoring grant recipient the amount of grant funding received as a teacher service scholarship, signing bonus, or student debt payment. The amount to be reimbursed shall be adjusted proportionately to reflect the service provided if the teacher participant taught at least one year, but less than the required four years, at the sponsoring grant recipient.
- (C) If a teacher participant is unable to complete a school year of teaching, that school year may still be counted toward the required four complete school years if any of the following occur:
- (i) The teacher participant has completed at least one-half of the school year.
 - (ii) The employer deems the teacher participant to have fulfilled his or her contractual requirements for the school year for the purposes of salary increases, probationary or permanent status, and retirement.
 - (iii) The teacher participant was not able to teach due to the financial circumstances of the sponsoring grant recipient, including a decision to not reelect the employee for the next succeeding school year.
 - (iv) The teacher participant has a condition covered under the federal Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (29 U.S.C. Sec. 2061 et seq.) or similar state law.
 - (v) The teacher participant was called or ordered to active duty status for more than 30 days as a member of a reserve component of the Armed Forces of the United States.

- (D) If the commission determines or is informed that a teacher participant who fails to complete the service obligation described in subparagraph (A), the commission shall confirm with the grant recipient the applicable grant amount to be recovered from the teacher participant and the grant recipient. The amount to be recovered shall be adjusted proportionately to reflect the service provided if the teacher participant taught at least one year, but less than four years, at the sponsoring grant recipient.
- (E) Upon confirming the amount to be recovered from the grant recipient pursuant to subparagraph (D), the commission shall notify the grant recipient of the amount to be repaid within 60 days. The grant recipient shall have 60 days from the date of the notification to make the required repayment to the commission. If the grant recipient fails to make the required payment within 60 days, the commission shall notify the Controller and the grant recipient of the failure to repay the amount owed. The Controller shall deduct an amount equal to the amount owed to the commission from the grant recipient's next principal apportionment or apportionments of state funds, other than basic aid apportionments required by Section 6 of Article IX of the California Constitution. If the grant recipient is a regional occupational center or a program operated by a joint powers authority that does not receive principal apportionment or apportionments of state funds, or a consortia of local educational agencies, the commission shall notify the Controller of the local educational agency where the teacher participant taught and the Controller shall deduct the amount owed from the applicable local educational agency's next principal apportionment or apportionments of state funds, other than basic aid apportionments required by Section 6 of Article IX of the California Constitution.
- (F) An amount recovered by the commission or deducted by the Controller pursuant to subparagraph (E) shall be deposited into the Proposition 98 Reversion Account.
- (G) Grant recipients may recover from a teacher participant who fails to complete the service obligation described in subparagraph (A) the amount of grant funding received as a teacher service scholarship, signing bonus, or student debt payment. The amount to be recovered shall be adjusted proportionately to reflect the service provided if the teacher participant taught at least one year, but less than four years, at the sponsoring grant recipient.
- (c) A grant recipient shall not use more than 5 percent of a grant award for program administration costs.
- (d) A grant recipient shall provide a 100-percent match of grant funding to support, complement, or enhance the local solution identified in subdivision (h). The match shall be in the form of one or both of the following:
- (1) One dollar (\$1) for every one dollar (\$1) of grant funding received.
 - (2) An in-kind match.
- (e) An applicant may consist of one or more, or any combination, of the following:
- (1) A school district.
 - (2) A county office of education.
 - (3) A charter schools
 - (4) A regional occupational center or program operated by a joint powers authority.
- (f) To receive a grant, an applicant shall submit to the commission an application at a time, in a manner, and containing information prescribed by the commission.

- (g) A grant recipient shall not use funds from a Local Solutions Grant Program award to support teacher candidates participating in a program supported by an award from the Teacher Residency Grant Program established pursuant to Section 44415.
- (h) When selecting grant recipients, the commission shall require applicants to demonstrate a local need for special education teachers and present a plan that proposes one or more solutions that address that local need.
- (i) For purposes of administering the grant program pursuant to this section, the commission shall do all of the following:
 - (1) Determine the number of grants to be awarded and the total amount awarded to each grant applicant.
 - (2) Require grant recipients to annually report the status and progress of the identified solution and to submit a final implementation report within three years of receiving a grant award that describes the outcomes and effectiveness of the identified solution.
 - (3) Allocate 90 percent of funding to each grant recipient at the time of the initial grant award and allocate the final 10 percent of grant funding upon receipt of the final implementation report. If the grantee fails to provide the final implementation report pursuant to paragraph (2), the grantee shall not receive the final 10 percent of the grant award.
- (j) For purposes of making the computations required by Section 8 of Article XVI of the California Constitution, the appropriation made by subdivision (a) shall be deemed to be “General Fund revenues appropriated for school districts,” as defined in subdivision (c) of Section 41202, for the 2017–18 fiscal year, and included within the “total allocations to school districts and community college districts from General Fund proceeds of taxes appropriated pursuant to Article XIII B,” as defined in subdivision (e) of Section 41202, for the 2017–18 fiscal year.

44417.

The commission shall conduct an evaluation of the Teacher Residency Grant Program established in Section 44415 and the Local Solutions Grant Program established in Section 44416 to determine the effectiveness of these programs in recruiting, developing support systems for, and retaining special education, and bilingual education, science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, teachers and provide a report to the Department of Finance and the appropriate fiscal and policy committees of the Legislature by December 1, 2023.

44418.

This article shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2027, and as of that date is repealed.

Appendix B

Commission-Approved Education Specialist Preparation Programs

*indicates the institution sponsors an integrated-undergraduate Special Education teacher preparation program in the identified specialty content area

Segment	Institution	Preliminary Education Specialist Preparation Program				
		Mild/ Moderate	Moderate /Severe	Early Childhood Special Education	Deaf and Hard of Hearing	Visual Impairments
California State University	CALIFORNIA POLY STATE UNI, SAN LUIS OBISPO	Yes				
	CALIFORNIA STATE POLY UNIVERSITY, POMONA *	Yes	Yes			
	CSU, BAKERSFIELD *	Yes	Yes			
	CSU, CHANNEL ISLANDS *	Yes				
	CSU, CHICO *	Yes	Yes			
	CSU, DOMINGUEZ HILLS	Yes	Yes	Yes		
	CSU, EAST BAY	Yes	Yes			
	CSU, FRESNO	Yes	Yes		Yes	
	CSU, FULLERTON *	Yes	Yes	Yes		
	CSU, LONG BEACH	Yes	Yes			
	CSU, LOS ANGELES *	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes
	CSU, MONTEREY BAY *	Yes	Yes			
	CSU, NORTHRIDGE	Yes	Yes	Yes		
	CSU, SACRAMENTO	Yes	Yes	Yes		
	CSU, SAN BERNARDINO	Yes	Yes	Yes		
	CSU, SAN MARCOS *	Yes	Yes			
	CSU, STANISLAUS *	Yes	Yes			
	HUMBOLDT STATE *	Yes	Yes			
	SAN DIEGO STATE *	Yes	Yes	Yes		
	SAN FRANCISCO STATE	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes
SAN JOSE STATE *	Yes	Yes	Yes			
SONOMA STATE	Yes	Yes				
L o	DAVIS JUSD	Yes	Yes			

Segment	Institution	Preliminary Education Specialist Preparation Program				
		Mild/ Moderate	Moderate /Severe	Early Childhood Special Education	Deaf and Hard of Hearing	Visual Impairments
	HIGH TECH HIGH	Yes				
	LOS ANGELES COE	Yes	Yes	Yes		
	MT. DIABLO USD	Yes				
	PLACER COE	Yes				
	SACRAMENTO COE	Yes				
	SAN FRANCISCO USD	Yes				
	SANTA CLARA COE		Yes	Yes		
	SONOMA COE	Yes				
	TULARE COE	Yes	Yes	Yes		
	Private, Independent Colleges and Universities	ALLIANT INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY	Yes			
ANTIOCH UNIVERSITY		Yes				
AZUSA PACIFIC UNIVERSITY*		Yes	Yes			
BIOLA UNIVERSITY		Yes				
BRANDMAN UNIVERSITY		Yes	Yes	Yes		
CALIFORNIA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY		Yes	Yes			
CALIFORNIA LUTHERAN UNIVERSITY		Yes	Yes		Yes	
CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY		Yes	Yes			
CLAREMONT GRADUATE UNIVERSITY		Yes	Yes			
CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY		Yes				
DOMINICAN UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA		Yes				
FRESNO PACIFIC UNIVERSITY		Yes	Yes	Yes		
HOLY NAMES UNIVERSITY		Yes				
LOYOLA MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY		Yes				
MILLS COLLEGE				Yes		

Segment	Institution	Preliminary Education Specialist Preparation Program				
		Mild/ Moderate	Moderate /Severe	Early Childhood Special Education	Deaf and Hard of Hearing	Visual Impairments
Segment	MOUNT SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY	Yes			Yes	
	NATIONAL UNIVERSITY	Yes	Yes	Yes		
	NOTRE DAME DE NAMUR UNIVERSITY	Yes	Yes			
	PACIFIC OAKS COLLEGE	Yes				
	POINT LOMA NAZARENE UNIVERSITY	Yes	Yes			
	ST. MARY'S COLLEGE OF CALIFORNIA *	Yes				
	TEACHERS COLLEGE OF SAN JOAQUIN	Yes	Yes	Yes		
	TOURO UNIVERSITY	Yes	Yes			
	UNIVERSITY OF LA VERNE	Yes				
	UNIVERSITY OF REDLANDS	Yes				
	UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO	Yes				
	UNIVERSITY OF SAN FRANCISCO	Yes				
	UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA	Yes				
	UNIVERSITY OF THE PACIFIC *	Yes	Yes			
	WHITTIER COLLEGE *	Yes	Yes			
University of California	UC, RIVERSIDE	Yes	Yes			
	UC, SAN DIEGO				Yes	
	UC, SANTA BARBARA	Yes	Yes			

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