

Stipends for Mentors of Classroom Teachers 2022-2023

State Funded Mentor Teacher Stipends

The legislature enacted statutes in 2000 to provide grant money for the purpose of providing stipends to some classroom teachers who mentor new-to-the-profession teachers/mentees. Budget allocations to fund the stipends stopped for a period of time, but the legislature again provided state funding for mentor teacher stipends in the 2017-18 school year. In order for a mentor to qualify to receive a stipend, the district, mentor, and mentee must meet specific statutory requirements. These requirements are in addition to what your approved mentoring program plan requires.

District Requirements

1. District must have a KSDE approved Mentor Program.
2. District must submit a stipend request by reporting mentors in Mentor Programs (a KSDE Authenticated Application) by the fall deadline. **SEPTEMBER 26, 2022**
3. District must complete the stipend request by adding mentees, assigning mentors to mentees, and submitting the final report in Mentor Programs, by the spring deadline. **MAY 1, 2023**
4. Kansas Unified School Districts *are* eligible.
5. Cooperatives and Interlocals *are* eligible.
6. Private schools *are not* eligible.
7. Outside providers (like service centers) *are not* eligible.
8. Special schools *are not* eligible.

Mentor Requirements

A mentor teacher must:

1. hold a valid **professional or accomplished** level license.
2. hold an assignment as a **classroom teacher**.
(Educator Type 1 through 5 as reported on the Licensed Personnel Report (LPR):
1 = Elementary, 2 = Middle School, 3 = Secondary, 4 = SPED/ESOL, 5 = CTE)
3. have **three consecutive school years** of employment in the school district where they are providing the mentoring.
4. mentor **no more than two** new-to-the-profession classroom teachers.
(Novice teachers who have not yet completed their 3rd year of teaching:
mentees reported with total years of experience = 0, 1, or 2 on LPR.)
5. have **completed a mentor training program** (based on the Mentor Program guidelines).

Mentee Requirements

A mentee teacher must:

1. hold a valid **license** (a non-substitute license).
2. hold an assignment as a **classroom teacher**.
(Educator Type 1 through 5 as reported on the LPR:
1 = Elementary, 2 = Middle School, 3 = Secondary, 4 = SPED/ESOL, 5 = CTE)
3. be a **new-to-the-profession** classroom teacher.
(Novice teachers who have not yet completed their 3rd year of teaching:
mentees reported with total years of experience = 0, 1, or 2 on LPR.)

Applying for Mentor Stipend Grant

- As required by statute, districts must submit a grant application prior to September 26, 2022 by entering Educator IDs of eligible mentors into the **Mentor Programs** KSDE Authenticated Application. You can request access to **Mentor Programs** using the Manage My Account function for KSDE Authenticated Applications if you do not already have access.
- The **Mentor Programs** application will reopen April 1, 2023 and final stipend requests are due May 1, 2023. During this time, districts will validate the list of mentors, add mentees, make assignments (pairing mentors with mentees), and submit the final stipend request.
- The Local Education Agency (LEA) where the mentor teachers are employed receives the grant award to distribute to all qualified mentor teachers. **Cooperatives and Interlocals** are also eligible as the employing LEA to receive the grant award.
- Outside providers (such as a Service Center) are *not* eligible as the employing LEA to receive the grant award, because their mentor teachers are not employed in the same district where the mentoring is being provided.

Distribution of Funds

- Stipends will be a **prorated amount** based on the total number of eligible mentor teachers across the state. The exact stipend amount will not be determined until the total number of eligible mentors is certified after Mentor Programs is closed in May.
- When the prorated amount is determined, LEAs will be reimbursed the prorated amount, times the number of eligible mentor teachers, to be paid out as stipends to the mentors.
- Funds will be paid at the end of the 2022-2023 school year after certifying eligible mentors.
- Funds will be deposited as a reimbursement to the **district's general fund** at the end of the school year, and must be distributed as a stipend to the mentor teacher(s).
- Qualified mentors of 1st year teachers will be funded *first*. Remaining grant allocations will be distributed on a pro-rated basis to qualified mentors of 2nd year teachers. It is *not anticipated* that qualified mentors of 3rd year teachers will receive a stipend.
- Qualified mentors providing **only one semester of mentoring** are eligible to receive a partial stipend.
- A mentor will receive **only one** stipend, even if assigned two mentees, equal to the larger of the two amounts.
- All funding **must** be used for mentor teacher stipends only.
- Funds **cannot** be used to fund a district mentoring program.