

# Student Teacher Stipend Program (STSP)

## What is the Student Teacher Stipend Program?

It's a state-funded program that provides a \$10,000 stipend to eligible aspiring educators completing student teaching, also known as clinical practice.



### Why is this program being offered?

California is investing in future educators. This stipend helps reduce financial barriers so more people can pursue a teaching career.



### How much money will I receive?

Eligible candidates receive a one-time \$10,000 stipend.



### Do I have to pay it back?

No. This is a stipend, not a loan.



## ELIGIBILITY

### You may qualify if you are:

- Enrolled in a Commission-approved preliminary teaching credential program (Preliminary Multiple Subject, Single Subject, Education Specialist, or PK-3 Early Childhood Education Specialist Instruction).
- Completing 500 or more of the 600 required hours of student teaching (clinical practice).
- Beginning or continuing clinical practice on or after July 1, 2026.
- Holding a valid Certificate of Clearance (COC), substitute teaching credential, or other document administered by the Commission as evidence of professional fitness review.

### You are NOT eligible if you are:

- An intern teacher.
- Enrolled in a Pupil Personnel Services, Speech-Language Pathology Services, or Career Technical Education credential program.
- A teacher adding an additional credential.
- A resident currently supported by a Commission-administered Teacher Residency Grant.
- Candidates who are not meeting their credential program's requirements are also ineligible.

### When does eligibility begin?

Eligibility begins when the candidate starts clinical practice on or after July 1, 2026.



## APPLICATION & PAYMENT

### Do I apply for the stipend myself?

No. Candidates cannot apply directly.

### How is the stipend application submitted?

Your credential program and your placement school or district apply on your behalf once you begin student teaching.

### When do applications open?

Applications open July 1, 2026, for the 2026-27 academic year.

### What triggers the application process?

The process starts once you begin your clinical practice coursework and start your student teaching placement with a participating school or district.



## FUNDING & TIMING

### When will I receive the money?

After your school district receives the funds from the state. It typically takes 50 or more days after the grant award agreement is finalized.

### Will I get paid right away when I start student teaching?

Not immediately. Payment depends on when funding is received, but your district will distribute the stipend once funds arrive.

### Is funding guaranteed?

No. Funds are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis until exhausted.



## PLACEMENT

### What if my student teaching spans multiple semesters?

You may still qualify for the stipend. Your eligibility starts when your clinical practice begins.

### What if I switch school districts while student teaching?

The first participating district you're placed in will provide the full stipend.

### What if I started student teaching before July 1, 2026?

You may still qualify if your clinical practice continues after July 1, 2026.



## PROGRAM RULES

### Can I receive this stipend more than once?

No. This is a one-time stipend per candidate.

### What happens if I withdraw from my program?

You won't have to repay the stipend, and you won't be eligible to receive it again.

### Can I combine this with other financial aid?

Yes. In most cases, you can combine the stipend with the Golden State Teacher Grant, but not with state-funded residency grants.

### Is there a service requirement after I finish?

No. There's no teaching commitment required after receiving the stipend.

## What should I do next?



**Talk to your credential program advisor.**



**Confirm your student teaching placement.**



**Ask if your program and district are participating.**



**Make sure all your clearances and documents are ready.**



Contact: [STSP@ctc.ca.gov](mailto:STSP@ctc.ca.gov)



**Commission on  
Teacher Credentialing**