

Student Teacher Stipend Program (STSP)



Guidance for LEAs and IHE Partners: The Student Teacher Stipend Program (STSP), administered by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC), provides \$10,000 stipends to eligible student teachers during clinical practice. The program is designed to reduce financial barriers and requires coordinated implementation between Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) and Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs).



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

- Stipend amount: \$10,000 per eligible candidate
- Application launch: July 1, 2026
- Funding window (Year 1):
July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027
- Annual funding: \$125 million
(~12,500 stipends per year)
- Total program funding:
\$708 million (through June 30, 2032)
- Award basis: First come, first served
- Grant recipient: Local Educational Agency



PROGRAM DESIGN

Applications are based on actual student teachers, not projections.

Candidates must be in clinical practice coursework and actively placed in clinical practice with a Local Educational Agency partner.

Local Educational Agencies receive grant funds and are responsible for disbursing stipends.

Institutions of Higher Education and Local Educational Agencies jointly complete the application.



ELIGIBILITY SNAPSHOT

ELIGIBLE:

- ✓ Enrolled in Commission-approved programs leading to a qualifying preliminary teaching credential.
- ✓ Eligible credential areas: Preliminary Multiple Subject, Single Subject, Education Specialist, or PK-3 Early Childhood Education Specialist Instruction credential.
- ✓ Completing 500+ of the 600 required hours of clinical practice.
- ✓ Beginning 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.

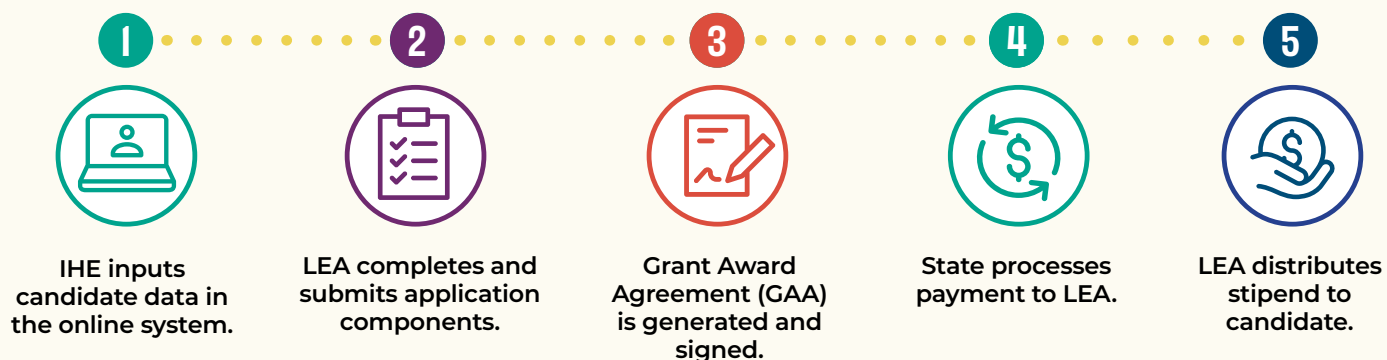
ELIGIBLE WITH CONDITIONS:

- ⚠ Residents in Commission-funded Teacher Residency Grant programs are NOT eligible. However, residents in locally-funded or federally-funded residency programs ARE eligible.
- ⚠ Teacher apprentices ARE eligible for the STSP, but only until they become teachers of record. Once they are the teacher of record, they no longer qualify.

NOT ELIGIBLE:

- ✗ Intern, Pupil Personnel Services, Speech-Language Pathology Services Credential, and Career Technical Education candidates.
- ✗ Teachers adding an additional credential (e.g., clear-credentialed teacher pursuing a second credential) if the 500-hour threshold would not be met.

APPLICATION PROCESS Beginning July 1, 2026



Timing note: Fund disbursement to LEAs may take 50+ days after GAA execution.

LEA AND IHE ROLES

IHEs:

- ✓ Initiate the process by entering candidate information
- ✓ Verify timing of clinical practice
- ✓ Coordinate with LEA partners
- ✓ Fulfill reporting requirements

LEAs:

- ✓ Complete the application and serve as the grantee
- ✓ Execute the Grant Award Agreement (GAA)
- ✓ Receive funds and distribute stipends
- ✓ Fulfill reporting requirements

CLINICAL PRACTICE CONSIDERATIONS

- ✓ Eligibility begins when the candidate starts clinical practice on or after July 1, 2026.
- ✓ Placements may span multiple terms.
- ✓ If placements change, the first participating LEA distributes the stipend.
- ✓ Candidates who began clinical practice before July 1, 2026 may be eligible if they continue clinical practice on or after that date.
- ✓ Summer 2026 clinical practice is included: the 2026-27 fiscal year begins July 1, 2026.

FUNDING PARAMETERS

- ✓ No per-LEA cap: limited by statewide funding of \$125 million per year.
- ✓ No administrative funding included for LEA program management.
- ✓ No service obligation for candidates.
- ✓ May be combined with the Golden State Teacher Grant and Classified School Employee Teacher Grant.
- ✓ Cannot be combined with Commission-funded Teacher Residency Grants.



RECOMMENDED NEXT STEPS

To prepare for program launch, LEAs and IHEs should:

- Confirm or update partnership agreements with IHE or LEA partners.
- Establish internal processes for identifying eligible candidates.
- Assign staff roles for application coordination.
- Align timelines for candidate placement and application submission.
- Ensure candidates obtain Certificate of Clearance (COC), substitute teaching credentials, or other documents administered by the Commission. Begin this process early as the fingerprint clearance process can take longer than expected.



**Commission on
Teacher Credentialing**