

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

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**COMMISSION ON TEACHER CREDENTIALING**

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Dear Local Education Agency and Higher Education Leadership Partners:

## **Student Teacher Stipend Program: A Statewide Call to Support Students and Future Teachers**

As State Superintendent of Public Instruction and Executive Director of the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing, we write to announce the launch of the Student Teacher Stipend Program and call on California's education community to work together in support of its successful implementation.

One of the most important responsibilities we share is ensuring that California students are taught by well-prepared, committed teachers. Great teachers change the trajectory of students' lives, strengthen the communities they serve, and help fulfill California's promise of opportunity for every student.

To meet that responsibility, California must continue to build a strong and stable educator pipeline. Yet for many aspiring teachers, student teaching creates a significant financial barrier. Candidates are asked to complete, without pay, the clinical practice necessary to become effective educators, while also managing living expenses, reducing paid employment, or absorbing additional costs.

The Student Teacher Stipend Program directly addresses that barrier. Through California's \$300 million investment, eligible teacher candidates completing clinical practice will receive a \$10,000 stipend to help support their entry into the profession.

Successful implementation now depends on clear student teacher placement communication between preparation programs and local educational agencies (LEAs). Because this investment is funded through Proposition 98, stipend funds must be administered through the LEAs. Preparation programs and LEAs therefore need to confirm which eligible student teachers are placed in LEA settings and when those placements occur so candidates can access this support. In most communities, strong relationships between employers and preparation programs already exist. The opportunity now is to use those relationships to help remove a financial barrier for future teachers.

### **Action Requested**

The Student Teacher Stipend Program online application system opens July 1, 2026. We strongly encourage all educator preparation programs and LEAs to do the following:

- Confirm which eligible student teachers are placed in LEA settings and when those placements occur
- Ensure the preparation program and LEA staff have a shared process for exchanging required placement information
- Establish internal processes to support timely application submission on behalf of student teachers
- Review available training materials and prepare staff for program launch
- Use existing placement relationships to help eligible student teachers access this support and reduce financial barriers to entering the profession

## Resources and Support

Program materials, including application guidance, recorded webinars, and training resources, are available on the Commission on Teacher Credentialing Student Teacher Stipend Program web page at <https://www.ctc.ca.gov/program-sponsors/grant-funded-programs/student-teacher-stipend/qa>.

For additional questions, please contact [STSP@ctc.ca.gov](mailto:STSP@ctc.ca.gov).

This is an opportunity for California's education community to act with common purpose on behalf of students, aspiring teachers, and the future of the profession. Together, through intentional partnership and coordinated implementation, we can reduce barriers to entry, support aspiring educators, and strengthen California's educator workforce for the students and communities we serve.

Sincerely,



Tony Thurmond  
State Superintendent of Public Instruction  
California Department of Education



Mary Vixie Sandy  
Executive Director  
Commission on Teacher Credentialing