

Frequently Asked Questions Extended Year for Special Educator Stipends

Question: How many days can be worked?

For the 2021-22 school year, the legislature has appropriated funding to support eligible special educators to work up to 4 extended days.

Question: Who is eligible?

Special education preschool teachers, special education K-12 teachers, and speech language pathologists (SLPs) are eligible for this program. Paraprofessionals, general educators, and other related service providers are not eligible.

Question: When does the extended year for special educators begin?

Eligible special education professionals may work within the two weeks before the first contract day of the school year, and/or within the two weeks after the last contract day of the school year. Special education professionals in year-round schools are eligible to work during off-track days, but not during vacation periods.

Question: How many hours do we have to work for each extended day?

Extended days are the same length as the regular contract day in the LEA, 1 day = 7.5 or 8 hours. If the educator is part time for example, they will indicate a half day if they worked 3.75 or 4 hours even if 4 hours is their full contract day.

Question: Can I work other than a full or a half day (e.g 2 hours a day for the 2 weeks?)

No, you must work either a full or a half contract day

Question: I'm a part time special educator. Do I qualify for the extended day stipend?

Yes. You are eligible for a partial stipend equal to the percentage of a full time position you hold. For example, a half-time special educator is eligible for 50% of the stipend, or 2 days. If you are also working as an administrator you can only count the portion of your time that is coded and worked as a special education teacher or SLP.

Question: How much will I be paid for working the extended days?

Each eligible special educator will receive a stipend of \$200.00 per day, plus applicable benefits (retirement, social security, Medicare, etc.). The \$200 stipend is taxable.

Question: When will I be paid?

The special educator must be paid before October 31 for work performed during the two-week period prior to the first contract day, or before July 31 for work performed during the two-week period after the last contract day. Districts and charter schools are required to pay the teacher before receiving reimbursement from the Utah State Board of Education.

Question: What kind of work qualifies for the stipend?

Special educators can work on IEP-related duties: for example, record maintenance, file preparation, report preparation, assessment related duties, conferring with parents, and other paperwork related to the implementation of IDEA. Extended days may not be used for professional learning, district-level planning, classroom setup/tear down, or direct student instruction.

Question: Can days be split between the weeks before and after the contract year?

Yes. There is nothing in statute or administrative rule that prevents the special education professionals from splitting the days between the beginning and end of the school year. The days can be split in any configuration within the allowed timeframes but may not exceed 4 days total.

Question: How are the days reported?

Each educator will complete a Qualtrics survey that is supplied by USBE. For LEAs with 5 or less educators this is done through an anonymous link that is provided through the Qualtrics action survey. For LEAs with more than 5 participating educators this is done through a QSF survey that is downloaded through the action survey, uploaded into the LEAs Qualtrics account and then the LEA will email a link to their eligible employees. Once the surveys are complete the LEA uploads the completed survey into the 2021-22 BOY EYSE Action Survey. Detailed instructions and the survey will be emailed prior to period of availability.

Question: What documentation is the LEA required to maintain for auditing?

The special education educators responses to the survey are all that is needed for reimbursement. The USBE will use the submitted reports from LEAs to determine reimbursement amounts.

Question: Does my LEA have to report even if no teachers are participating in EYSE?

Every LEA must complete the EYSE Action survey even if not teachers will be participating.