

Frequently Asked Questions Extended Year for Special Educator (EYSE) Legislative Days Stipend

Question: How many days can be worked?

For the 2023-24 school year, the legislature has appropriated funding to support eligible special educators to work up to 5.5 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. **Ineligible:** Paraprofessionals, general educators, speech language technicians (SLTs), and other related service providers (e.g., behavior coordinators) are not eligible. Full time special education directors are not eligible either.

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 including weekends, 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 would 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 (time with students).

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, workers' comp, and Medicare). The \$200 stipend is taxable. **Ineligible benefits:** Long-Term Disability Insurance, Unemployment Insurance, Post-Employment Benefits, and Medical and Dental Insurance.

Question: When will I be paid?

The special educator must be within 30 days of performing the work. 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 5.5 days total.

Question: How are the days reported?

Each educator will complete a Qualtrics survey that is supplied by USBE and then the LEA EYSE administrators will email a link to their eligible employees with instructions on when the days can be used and who their approver is. Once the surveys are complete the LEA administrator can review their dashboard link supplied by USBE to see who has submitted tickets and if approved or not. The administrator can then reach out to the approver to review tickets or approve/reject themselves. Detailed instructions and the survey will be emailed prior to period of availability. These reports are due by September 30th for work done prior to the school year and by July 15th for work done following the school year.

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

The special education educator's responses to the survey are all that is needed for reimbursement. The USBE will use the submitted reports from LEAs to determine reimbursement amounts. It is important to note that educators are to enter their information into the survey, and it should not be entered by staff.

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

Every LEA must complete the EYSE Administrator survey even if no teachers will be participating.

Question: Is an educator qualified for EYSE days if they are enrolled in APPEL?

Yes, they are eligible if they have a provisional certificate once started. Must be assigned to teach a SPED classroom.

Question: Do these positions qualify?

If an employee is a Behavior Coordinator who has a teaching license and will be involved in IEPs, would they qualify for EYSE days?

Behavior Coordinators are ineligible even if they have a SPED endorsement as they are not teaching.

Are administrative assistants included in the Personnel Survey?

No, they are not included.

What about a SPED Director who doesn't teach but does compliance on files?

No

What about a teacher who is finishing school and licensed provisionally by the state until she finishes her degree?

Yes

What about a teacher who is not quite finished with the APEL program with the state who is teaching?

Yes

A teacher who does not take advantage of this program and doesn't spend the time to do the preparation?

No

More information can be found in the Utah State Code. Link: [Utah Code Section 53F-2-310](#)