



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Eric G. Mackey, Ed.D.
State Superintendent of Education

September 8, 2025

MEMORANDUM

TO: City and County Superintendents of Education

FROM: Eric G. Mackey *EGM*
State Superintendent of Education

RE: Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Special Education Services Application for State-Appropriated Financial Assistance

The Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE), Special Education Services (SES) Section, is pleased to announce the opportunity for local education agencies (LEAs) to receive additional funding support through five special education state-appropriated funds for FY 2026, pursuant to the Education Trust Fund (ETF) Appropriations Bill–Act No. 2025-270.

The funding options and funding sources are as follows:

1. Special Education Licensed Interpreters and Teachers of the Deaf/Hard of Hearing Fund (SELI/TOD/HOHF)–Fund Source Code 1255
2. Board Certified Behavior Analyst Fund (BCBAF)–Fund Source Code 1256
3. Special Education Catastrophic Fund (SECF)–Fund Source Code 2240
4. High-Needs Special Education Fund (HNSEF)–Fund Source Code 2241
5. Cameras in the Classroom Grant Program (CCGP)–Fund Source Code 2901

These funds are made available with the purpose of assisting LEAs in covering the direct special education instructional costs of providing a free and appropriate public education (FAPE) to children with disabilities that would create a catastrophic fiscal impact on the LEA; in providing Special Education Licensed Interpreters Teachers of the Deaf/Hard of Hearing; and in providing support of a Board Certified Behavior Analyst® (BCBA®) and/or Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analyst (BCaBA®). A catastrophic need may arise when special education and related services are provided for a particular child or group of children whose needs are unduly expensive, extraordinary, and beyond the routine and reasonable special education and related services provided by the LEA. It is best to apply as early as possible (i.e., as soon as possible for Options 1, 2, and 5, and as soon as a catastrophic need is known for Options 3 and 4) because all awards are contingent on the availability of funds.

A separate application is required for each option. All requests for funding for Special Education Licensed Interpreters and/or Teachers of the Deaf/Hard of Hearing should be made under Option 1, and all requests for funding for BCBA's and/or BCaBA's should be made under Option 2. These budget line items should only appear in applications for Options 3 and 4 if the funds for Options 1 and 2, respectively, are depleted.

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of Education

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Awards will be made in rounds based on the following deadlines for submitting applications:

Application Submission Deadlines (Electronic Submission Date By)
<p>Application Deadlines for Round 1 and 2 Awards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• September 12, 2025• October 31, 2025 <p>Application Deadline for additional Rounds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Open until funds have been awarded or by May 29, 2026, based on which occurs first.

Any public school system in the state of Alabama that has enrolled a child with a disability, determined eligible for special education and related services under existing federal and state law, may submit a grant application to the ALSDE for financial assistance.

For Round 1, an electronic application must be submitted by the submission deadline of September 12, 2025. For Round 2 (based upon the availability of remaining funds after the first round of applications are received and processed), the deadline is October 31, 2025.

For additional rounds, the application submission window is currently open and will remain open until all funds have been awarded or until May 29, 2026, whichever occurs first.

Please note that receiving a grant award funded through state funds may have an impact on the federal LEA, *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)*, Maintenance of Effort (MOE) requirement.

These funds are awarded for FY 2026 and are available from October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026, with the official effective date designated upon award. Applications for supplemental funds must be submitted and approved prior to expenditures. All funds awarded must be expended by September 30, 2026, and are not automatically awarded in subsequent years.

For consideration in the award allocation of these funds, it is imperative that the LEAs comply with all application requirements. An LEA may apply to receive FY 2026 special education state-appropriated funds by completing and submitting an electronic application attached [PowerForm Information](#).

If you have questions or need clarification, please contact the ALSDE, SES, by email at sesgrants@alsde.edu or by telephone at 334-694-4782.

EGM/ER/BJ

Attachment

cc: Directors and Coordinators of Special Education
Chief School Financial Officers
Mrs. Angela Martin
Mr. Arthur Watts, Jr.
Mrs. Shanthia Washington
Mrs. Nancy Smith
Dr. DaLee Chambers
Mrs. Erika Richburg

Special Education Services Application for State-Appropriated Financial Assistance

State Funding (Pursuant to *Education Trust Fund (ETF) Appropriations Act No. 2025-270* FY 2026)

State Supplemental Funds: Alabama Fiscal Year (FY) 2026

State-appropriated financial assistance is available to any public school system in the state of Alabama that has enrolled an exceptional child with disabilities, determined eligible for special education and related services under the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act*. Local education agencies (LEAs) may submit grant applications to the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) for financial assistance. Financial assistance is available when the special education and related services for that child (or group of children) are unduly expensive, extraordinary, and/or beyond the routine and reasonable education and services provided.

For FY 2026, there are five state-appropriated special education services financial assistance options:

1. Special Education Licensed Interpreters and Teachers of the Deaf/Hard of Hearing Fund (SELI/TOD/HOHF)—Fund Source 1255
2. Board Certified Behavior Analyst Fund (BCBAF)—Fund Source 1256
3. Special Education Catastrophic Fund (SECF)—Fund Source 2240
4. High-Needs Special Education Fund (HNSEF)—Fund Source 2241
5. Cameras in the Classroom Grant Program (CCGP)—Fund Source 2901

For consideration in the award allocation of these funds, it is imperative that the LEA follow all application requirements.

Please note that receiving a grant award funded through state funds may have an impact on the federal local education agency (LEA), *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act* (IDEA), Maintenance of Effort (MOE) requirement.

These funds are awarded for FY 2026 and are available from October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026, with the official effective date designated upon award. Applications for supplemental funds must be submitted and approved prior to expenditures. All funds awarded must be expended by September 30, 2026, and are not automatically awarded in subsequent years.

If you have questions or need clarification, please contact the ALSDE, Special Education Services (SES) Section by email at sesgrants@alsde.edu or by telephone at 334-694-4782.

Application Submission Deadlines (Electronic Submission Date By)
<p>Application Deadlines for Rounds 1 and 2 Awards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• September 12, 2025• October 31, 2025 <p>Application Deadline for Additional Rounds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Open until funds have been awarded or by May 29, 2026, based on which occurs first.

Options 1, 2, & 3

Option 1: Special Education Licensed Interpreters and/or Teachers of the Deaf/Hard of Hearing Fund (SELI/TOD/HOHF)

The purpose of the SELI/TOD/HOHF is to provide funding for at least one licensed sign language interpreter for each local education agency (LEA) based on need and/or teachers of deaf/hard of hearing students and/or teachers. The SELI/TOD/HOHF option will be funded based on consideration of the following criteria:

- a. The LEA needs licensed sign language interpreter(s) and/or teachers of deaf/hard of hearing student(s).
- b. The LEA has a child or youth ages 3-21, inclusive, with a current individualized education program (IEP), who also meets the predetermined criteria in the definition of hearing impairment, and is currently receiving special education services, in need of special education licensed interpreter(s) and/or teachers of deaf/hard of hearing student(s).

Option 2: Board Certified Behavior Analyst Fund (BCBAF)

The purpose of the BCBAF is to provide at least \$87,000.00 in support of a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA[®]) or Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analyst[®] (BCaBA[®]) services for an LEA in need of support providing behavioral services to a child and/or youth with a disability, ages 3-21. The BCBAF option will be funded based on consideration of the following criteria:

- a. The LEA needs Board Certified Behavior Analyst(s) [BCBA(s)] and/or Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analyst(s) [BCABA(s)].
- b. The LEA has a child or youth ages 3-21, inclusive, with a current IEP, who also meets the established criteria in the definition of Autism and/or is currently receiving special education services, in need of services from certified behavior professionals who implement behavior-analytic interventions.

Option 3: Special Education Catastrophic Fund (SECF)

The purpose of the SECF grant option is to support public schools in providing special education and related services to a child and/or youth with a disability, ages 3-21, in catastrophic cases (e.g., residential or day treatment, costly specialized therapy, and/or treatment program). The SECF option will be funded based on consideration of the following criteria:

- a. Grants to be awarded to LEAs specifically for individual children or youth with disabilities determined eligible for special education and related services under existing federal and Alabama state laws, rules, regulations, and policies governing special education.
- b. Applicant(s) will not be limited to a first-come, first-served basis, but recommendation shall be based upon the catastrophic case presented in the application(s).
- c. Priority is given to an applicant who is a previous grantee and who continues to meet the criteria; second priority is given to an applicant who meets the criteria.
- d. The quality of information included in the completed application and the student's IEP and Eligibility Report is a primary factor.
- e. All awarded grants must provide a means for assessing the impact of the grant award.
- f. The State Superintendent has waived the 25% match for local boards of education for the Catastrophic Trust Fund awarded by the Alabama State Department of Education pursuant to the *Alabama Administrative Code* 290-080-092.09 (1) (b).

Options 4 & 5

Option 4: High-Needs Special Education Fund (HNSEF)

The purpose of the HNSEF grant option is to support public schools in providing special education and related services to a group of children and/or youth with disabilities ages 3-21 or to a special education program (e.g., sensory classroom, behavior intervention program, special education related professional development). The HNSEF option will be funded based on consideration of the following criteria:

- a. Grants to be awarded to LEAs specifically for children and youth with disabilities determined eligible for special education and related services under existing federal and Alabama state laws, rules, regulations, and policies governing special education.
- b. Applicant(s) will not be limited to a first-come, first-served basis, but recommendation shall be based upon the high-needs case presented in the application(s).
- c. The quality of information included in the completed application is a primary factor.
- d. All awarded grants must provide a means for assessing the impact of the grant award.

Option 5: Cameras in the Classroom Grant Program (CCGP)

The purpose of the CCGP grant option is to provide at least \$2,499.00 in support of classroom and student safety in self-contained classrooms providing special education and related services to children and/or youth with disabilities ages 3-21. The CCGP is to provide funding to use toward the purchase, installation, maintenance, and monitoring of video cameras in the classrooms. The CCGP option will be funded based on consideration of the following criteria:

- a. Grants to be awarded to LEAs specifically for groups of children or youth with disabilities determined eligible for special education and related services under existing federal and Alabama state laws, rules, regulations, and policies governing special education.
- b. The LEA has a self-contained classroom of children or youth with disabilities ages 3-21, with current individualized education programs (IEPs).
- c. Priority will be given to LEAs with financial challenges and/or with high percentages of nonverbal children with disabilities in self-contained classrooms.
- d. Applicant(s) will not be limited to a first-come, first-served basis, but recommendation shall be based upon the case presented in the application.
- e. The quality of information included in the completed application is a primary factor.
- f. All awarded grants must provide a means for assessing the impact of the grant award.

If the child approved for a SELI/TOD/HOHF, BCBAF, SECF, or HNSEF grant no longer needs the services designated in the application, or if the child withdraws or transfers to another LEA, the LEA that was allocated funds must notify ALSDE in writing no later than 10 days after the child's status changes. The LEA that received funds will not be eligible to retain any remaining unobligated or unexpended funds.

Special Education Services Application for State-Appropriated Financial Assistance

SECTION 1: LEA APPLICANT INFORMATION

School Year: 2025-2026

Local Education Agency: _____

LEA Code: _____

LEA Mailing Address: _____

Superintendent: _____

Email Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Special Education Coordinator: _____

Email Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Chief Financial Officer: _____

Email Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Signature of Superintendent

Date

Signature of Special Education Coordinator

Date

Signature of Chief School Financial Officer

Date

Selected Option

The LEA may choose to complete multiple applications for Options 3 and 4, as appropriate. Each application shall be submitted for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026.

Select one option per application:

- | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <p><u>Option 1</u>
Special Education Licensed Interpreters and/or Teachers of the Deaf Fund (SELI/TOD/HOHF)</p> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <p><u>Option 2</u>
Board Certified Behavior Analyst Fund (BCBAF)</p> <p><i>At least \$87,000.00 will be available to each LEA submitting an application by the first submission deadline.</i></p> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <p><u>Option 3</u>
Special Education Catastrophic Fund (SECF)</p> <p><i>(Option 3 is for individual children in catastrophic cases only.)</i></p> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <p><u>Option 4</u>
High-Needs Special Education Fund (HNSEF)</p> <p><i>(Option 4 can be for individual children <u>or</u> a group of children who need special education and related services that are unduly expensive, extraordinary, and/or beyond routine.)</i></p> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <p><u>Option 5</u>
Camera in the Classroom Grant Program (CCGP)</p> <p><i>(Option 5 is for cameras in self-contained classrooms where special education services are provided.)</i></p> |
|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|--|

The subject matter of this application:

- Previously funded
 Previously submitted, but not funded
 New application

Indicate Previous Grant Number

Additional Information

SECTION 2: STUDENT AND/OR PROGRAMMATIC INFORMATION

A. For Option 1, provide the following information, based on identified need:

Please list the name(s) of students served by each interpreter.

Interpreter 1, names of student(s):

Interpreter 2, names of student(s):

Interpreter 3, names of student(s):

Interpreter 4, names of student(s):

Interpreter 5, names of student(s):

Interpreter 6, names of student(s):

Interpreter 7, names of student(s):

Please list the name(s) of students served by each teacher of the deaf.

Teacher of the Deaf/Hard of Hearing 1, names of student(s):

Teacher of the Deaf/Hard of Hearing 2, names of student(s):

B. For Option 2, provide the number of BCBAs and/or BCaBAs requested: _____

C. For Options 3 and 4, provide the following information if the application is on behalf of a single student.

Name of Student: _____

State Student ID: _____

Disability Area: _____

Secondary Issues: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Name of School: _____

School Mailing Address:

D. For Option 4, provide the following information if the application is for a group of two or more students or an initiative.

Name of Group or Initiative (e.g., Behavioral Intervention, Neurodevelopmental Unit)

Number of Students in the Group: _____

Names of 3-4 Students in the Group:

Name and Level of School(s):

E. For Option 5, please submit an application by September 12, 2025, to request “Cameras in the Classroom” funds. The \$500,000.00 will be split and allocated between LEAs requesting funds. The proposed budget will be used for planning purposes. If the portion your LEA receives is less than your budgeted amount, you will need to adjust accordingly.

Name of Group or Initiative (e.g., Behavioral Intervention, Neurodevelopmental Unit)

Number of Cameras Requested: _____

Number of Self-Contained Classrooms: _____

SECTION 3: STATEMENT OF NEED

In the space below, explain the problem that will be addressed through the application. Include a detailed statement of the type of service(s) needed and the facts and circumstances of the situation.

SECTION 4: STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL NEED

4.1. Provide a detailed statement of the type of service(s) needed and the expected cost of each service.

[Empty box for providing a detailed statement of the type of service(s) needed and the expected cost of each service.]

4.2. Provide a detailed statement of the financial impact on the special education program of the local education agency if such services were funded solely by the local education agency.

[Empty response box for financial impact statement]

4.3. Provide a detailed statement showing each anticipated source of funds (including local) for the proposed expenditures in this application by the local education agency special education program. [For Option 3, Special Education Catastrophic Fund (SECF), this shall include the amount needed to provide the required local match, if applicable.]

4.4. Provide a detailed statement of the financial impact on the entire local education agency if this grant is not approved.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for the user to provide a detailed statement of financial impact on the local education agency if the grant is not approved.

Budget Information

SECTION 5: BUDGET INFORMATION REQUIRED FOR ALL OPTIONS

Provide a detailed proposed budget, including the proposed budget amount(s), the category of expenditure(s), a brief description of expenditure(s), and an account code(s) for the **total amount of the requested funding** indicated. Local prorated amounts, when applicable, should be used for the proposed expenditures where services provided are for multiple students.

Category of Expenditure (e.g., special education services, related services, other costs)	Description of Expenditure	Account Code	Proposed Budget Amount
		Total	\$