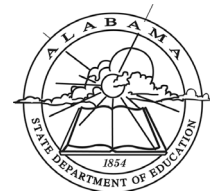




STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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

July 30, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO: City and County Superintendents of Education

FROM: Eric G. Mackey 
State Superintendent of Education

RE: Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 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 six special education state-appropriated funds for FY 2027, pursuant to the Education Trust Fund (ETF) Appropriations Bill—Act No. 2026-380.

The funding options and fund 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
6. Specialized Treatment Center Tuition Grant (STCTG)—Fund Source Code 2250

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 and youth with disabilities that would create a catastrophic fiscal impact on the LEA; in providing SELI/TOD/HOH; and in providing support of a 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 and youth 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, 4, and 6) because all awards are contingent on the availability of funds.

A separate application is required for each option. All requests for funding for SELI/TOD/HOH should be made under Option 1, and all requests for funding for BCBA[®]s and/or BCaBA[®]s should be made under Option 2.

Alabama
State Board
of Education

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President

Jackie Zeigler
District I

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District III
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President Pro Tem

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District VIII

Eric G. Mackey, Ed.D.
Secretary and
Executive Officer

Awards for Options 1-5 will be made in rounds based on the following deadlines for submitting applications:

Application Submission Deadlines (Electronic Submission Date By)
Application Deadlines for Rounds 1 and 2 Awards: • August 21, 2026 • November 6, 2026 Application Deadline for Additional Rounds: • Open until funds have been awarded or by May 31, 2027, based on which occurs first. (Note: Additional application submission dates may be added if funds remain after each submission deadline.) Applications for Option 6 are available throughout the grant timeline as long as funds remain.

Any public school system in the state of Alabama that has enrolled a child or youth 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.

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 2027 and are available from October 1, 2026, through September 30, 2027, 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, 2027, 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 2027 special education state-appropriated funds by completing and submitting an [electronic application](#).

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

EGM/ER/SH

Attachments

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

FY26-2056

Special Education Services Application for State-Appropriated Financial Assistance

State Funding (Pursuant to *Education Trust Fund (ETF) Appropriations Act No. 2026-380*, FY 2027)

State Supplemental Funds: Alabama Fiscal Year (FY) 2027

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* (IDEA). 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 youth (or group of children or youth) are unduly expensive, extraordinary, and/or beyond the routine and reasonable education and services provided.

For FY 2027, there are six 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 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
6. Specialized Treatment Center Tuition Grant (STCTG)—Fund Source Code 2250

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

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

These funds are awarded for FY 2027 and are available from October 1, 2026, through September 30, 2027, 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, 2027, 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)
Application Deadlines for Rounds 1 and 2 Awards: • August 21, 2026 • November 6, 2026 Application Deadline for Additional Rounds: • Open until funds have been awarded or by May 31, 2027, based on which occurs first. Applications for Option 6 are available throughout the grant timeline as long as funds remain.

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 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)]. **(Note: Funds from this award do not include services or fees provided by non-certified Behavior Analyst (e.g., Registered Behavior Technician (RBT), behavior specialist.)**
- 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., costly specialized therapy, nursing services, and/or day treatment programs). 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. Applicants will not be limited to a first-come, first-served basis, but recommendations 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 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 Notice and Eligibility Decision Regarding Special Education Services 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 ALSDE pursuant to the *Alabama Administrative Code* 290-080-092.09(1)(b).

Options 4, 5, & 6

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., behavioral intervention, neurodevelopmental unit). 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. Applicants will not be limited to a first-come, first-served basis, but recommendations 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 funding to support classroom and student safety in self-contained classrooms that provide 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 self-contained 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 IEPs.
- c. Priority will be given to LEAs with financial challenges and/or with high percentages of nonverbal children or youth with disabilities in self-contained classrooms.
- d. Applicants will not be limited to a first-come, first-served basis, but recommendations 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.

Option 6: Specialized Treatment Center Tuition Grant (STCTG)

The purpose of the STCTG 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, who require placement in a comprehensive residential program. The STCTG 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. Applicants will not be limited to a first-come, first-served basis, but recommendations shall be based upon the case presented in the application.
- c. Applicants must have a written notification of acceptance from the STC.

- d. The quality of information included in the completed application, IEP, and Notice and Eligibility Decision Regarding Special Education Services is a primary factor. An updated IEP and current Notice and Eligibility Decision Regarding Special Education Services are required.

If the child and/or youth approved for a SELI/TOD/HOHF, BCBAF, SECF, HNSEF, or STCTG grant no longer needs the services designated in the application, or if the child and/or youth withdraws or transfers to another LEA, the LEA that was allocated funds must notify the 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: 2026-2027

Local Education Agency: _____

LEA Code: _____

LEA Mailing Address: _____

Superintendent: _____

Email Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Special Education Coordinator: _____

Email Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Chief School 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, 2027.

Select one option per application:

☐ Option 1	Special Education Licensed Interpreters and/or Teachers of the Deaf and/or Hard of Hearing Fund (SELI/TOD/HOHF) <i>Option 1: Each LEA that submits an application by the first submission deadline will be eligible for at least \$55,000.00.</i>
☐ Option 2	Board Certified Behavior Analyst Fund (BCBAF) <i>Option 2: Each LEA that submits an application by the first submission deadline will be eligible for at least \$87,000.00.</i>
☐ Option 3	Special Education Catastrophic Fund (SECF) <i>Option 3: For individual children or youth in catastrophic cases only.</i>
☐ Option 4	High-Needs Special Education Fund (HNSEF) <i>Option 4: For individual children or youth, or groups of children or youth, who need special education and related services that are unduly expensive, extraordinary, and/or beyond routine.</i>
☐ Option 5	Cameras in the Classroom Grant Program (CCGP) <i>Option 5: For cameras in self-contained classrooms where special education services are provided.</i>
☐ Option 6	Specialized Treatment Center Tuition Grant (STCTG) <i>Option 6: For individual children or youth accepted in a residential program.</i>

The subject matter of this application:

☐ Previously funded

☐ Previously submitted,
but not funded

☐ New application

Indicate Previous Grant Number:

Additional Information

SECTION 2: STUDENT/PROGRAMMATIC INFORMATION

Option 1 – SELI/TOD/HOHF: Provide the following information, based on identified need:

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

Interpreter 1, name(s) of student(s):

Interpreter 2, name(s) of student(s):

Interpreter 3, name(s) of student(s):

Interpreter 4, name(s) of student(s):

Interpreter 5, name(s) of student(s):

Interpreter 6, name(s) of student(s):

Interpreter 7, name(s) 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, name(s) of student(s):

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

Option 2 – BCBAF: Provide the number of BCBAs/BCaBAs requested: _____

Option 3 – SECF: Provide the following information if the application is on behalf of an individual student.

Name of Student: _____

State Student ID: _____

Disability Area: _____

Secondary Issues: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Name of School: _____

School Mailing Address: _____

Option 4 – HNSEF: Complete A or B.

A. Provide the following information if the application is on behalf of an individual student.

Name of Student: _____

State Student ID: _____

Disability Area: _____

Secondary Issues: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Name of School: _____

School Mailing Address: _____

B. Provide the following information if the application is for two or more students or an initiative.

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

Number of Students: _____

Names of 2-3 Students:

Name and Level of School(s):

Option 5 – CCGP: Please submit an application by August 21, 2026, to request “Cameras in the Classroom” funds. The \$600,000.00 will be allocated based on the number of LEAs requesting funds. The proposed budget will be used for planning purposes.

Name of School(s):

Number of Cameras Requested: _____

Number of Self-Contained Classrooms: _____

Option 6 – STCTG: Provide the following information for the individual student.

Name of Student: _____

State Student ID: _____

Disability Area: _____

Secondary Issues: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Name of School: _____

School Mailing Address: _____

Name of STC: _____

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.

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

- 4.3. Provide a detailed statement showing each anticipated source of funds (including local) for the proposed expenditures in this application by the LEA special education program.

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

Budget Information	
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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	\$