

**Memorandum of Understanding Between
Centennial Education Association/East County Bargaining Council
and the Centennial School District
Regarding the Special Education Stipend
April 2025**

On November 15, 2024, the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) announced that the Oregon Legislature had allocated funding to ODE to provide one-time payments to Oregon's special education staff in the 2024-25 school year. The purpose of the funds, awarded through district application, is to recognize the critical services staff provide to students served by Oregon's public special education programs, as well as to support the retention of qualified special education professionals. The Centennial School District intends to apply for these funds. The stipend amount will be the same for all individuals, determined by ODE, based on the total number of staff statewide.

Background

Senate Bill 5506 (2023) directed ODE to request funding in the interim Legislative Session, eventually allocated through Senate Bill 5701 (2024), for \$8.9 million to provide stipends to licensed educators and classified school employees working in special education during the 2024-2025 school year. The definitions of special education staff found in Section 5 of Senate Bill 283 (2023) inform ODE's understanding of the types of qualifying staff under the law. On October 17, 2024, the State Board of Education adopted administrative rules to implement the stipend program (OAR 581-017-1000).

Criteria for Stipend Qualification:

- To be eligible for the stipend, qualifying staff must be employed and working on December 2, 2024 and through the date stipends are issued by their employer in spring 2025.
- Staff are employed as a Classified, Licensed, or Administrative employee.
- Staff provide significant special education support, specifically 75% or more of the educator or employee's student caseload consists of students who have an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP).
 - For staff who do not have an assigned caseload, this requirement is met if at least 75% of their work time is spent supporting students with IEPs or IFSPs, whether that is based on their work time in a classroom or school assignment, performing job duties, or any combination of activities. This includes staff in non-instructional roles, such as bus drivers who drive students who have IEPs.

ODE Timeline:

- January 13, 2025 - Due date for districts electing to submit qualifying staff names.
- January 31, 2025 - Stipend amount determined by ODE and award amounts released.
- June 30, 2025 - Final date for districts to issue stipends to qualifying staff.

Source: **ODE Special Education Staff Stipend**

For the Association:

Centennial EA President Date

Co-Bargaining Chair Date

Co-Bargaining Chair Date

ECBC President Date

For the District:

Superintendent Date

Director of Human Resources Date

Board Chair Date