

Frequently Asked Questions Extended Year for Special Educator Stipends

Question: Who is eligible?

Special education preschool teachers, special education K-21 teachers, and speech language pathologists (SLPs) are eligible for this program. Paraprofessionals, general educators, and other related service providers are not eligible.

Question: How many days can we work?

For the 2013-2014 school year, the legislature has appropriated funding for eligible special educators to work up to 3 ½ extended days.

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

Eligible special educators 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 educators 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.

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 1 ¾ days.

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 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 June 30 for work performed during the two week period after the last contract day. Districts and charter schools are required to pay the teacher before requesting reimbursement from the Utah State Office of Education.

Question: What kind of work qualifies for the stipend?

Special educators can work on IEP related duties, 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 development, 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 educator 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 3 ½ days total.