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First-Round Teacher Bonus Payment Information

Commissioner Education <commissioner.education@tnedu.gov>
To: tnedu.funding <tnedu.funding@tn.gov>

Wed, Jul 16, 2025 at 10:53 AM

Dear District Leaders,

Chapter 7 of the Public Acts of 2025, 1st Extraordinary Session (PC 7), was signed by Governor Lee on February 12, 2025, appropriating funds to provide one-time bonuses of \$2,000 to each teacher employed in a K-12 school during the 2024-25 school year. Because funds were appropriated in the FY2026 budget, they were not available for distribution until after July 1, 2025. In addition, districts submitted their verified teacher rosters to the department on July 1. After reviewing and processing these rosters, and to support timely payments, the department is now releasing a first-round payment covering bonus funds for the majority of eligible teachers.

A list of teachers who have been awarded bonuses, along with individual bonus amounts, is available on TNShare (District > Local Finance>District Name_Number_bonus_payments_7.15.25).

Eligible educators will receive a bonus of \$2,000. For each bonus, districts will receive more than \$2,000 to cover the employer's share of benefits (social security, Medicare, and TCRS). An employee's share of benefits would be covered by the employee like any other payroll payment made to them. Bonus amounts are based on the educator's retirement plan, as follows:

- Hybrid: \$2,333 (16.65%)
- Legacy: \$2,268.40 (13.42%)
- Unknown: A small group of teachers could not be matched to a retirement plan in TCRS. These teachers will be paid at the higher Hybrid rate (\$2,333). If a full payment is not needed to meet the bonus requirement, please remit any unused funds to the department.

There are a few cases where bonuses were not included in the first round. These include:

- Teachers who were manually added to verification rosters,
- Teachers claimed for bonuses by multiple districts, and
- Other unique data discrepancies.

These situations will be addressed through an appeals process. Additional guidance on this process will be shared later this week.

Funds will be loaded into ePlan immediately. If you have any questions, please contact us at tnedu.funding@tn.gov.

Sincerely,



Department of
Education

Commissioner of Education

commissioner.education@tnedu.gov


tn.gov/education

#TNBestforAll

Accounting for Teacher Bonuses

- Account for funds in:
 - Fund 141 General Purpose Schools, or
Fund 145 Other Education Special Revenue
 - Revenue - 46590 Other State Education Funds
 - Expenditures - Appropriate function & 188 Bonus Payments



Request	
Blount County (050) - FY 2026 - 141 - General Purpose	
General Information	
Project Number	26-050000
C.F.D.A. Number	
Reimbursement Request #	1
Voucher Number	
Fiscal Summary	
Allocation	\$0.00
Available Budget	\$0.00
Fiscal Information As Of	07/16/2025 
Cash Received	\$0.00
Total Cash Basis Expenditures	\$1,818,407.60
Cash Balance On Hand	(\$1,818,407.60)
Cash Available	\$0.00
Total Amount Requested	\$1,818,407.60

*		Sum of Bonus Amount
141-71100 Regular Instruction		1,298,320.20
141-71200 Special Education		232,919.80
141-71300 Vocational Education		117,561.80
141-72130 Other Student Support		66,752.60
141-72210 Regular Instruction Support		50,034.00
141-72220 Special Education Support		18,470.20
141-72410 Office Of The Principal		15,943.40
141-73400 Early Childhood Education		18,405.60
Grand Total		1,818,407.60

Breakdown

141-71100-188	1,132,000.00
141-71100-201	70,184.00
141-71100-204	79,722.20
141-71100-212	16,414.00
141-71200-188	202,000.00
141-71200-201	12,524.00
141-71200-204	15,466.80
141-71200-212	2,929.00
141-71300-188	102,000.00
141-71300-201	6,324.00
141-71300-204	7,758.80
141-71300-212	1,479.00
141-72130-188	58,000.00
141-72130-201	3,596.00
141-72130-204	4,315.60
141-72130-212	841.00
141-72210-188	44,000.00
141-72210-201	2,728.00
141-72210-204	2,668.00
141-72210-212	638.00
141-72220-188	16,000.00
141-72220-201	992.00
141-72220-204	1,246.20
141-72220-212	232.00
141-72410-188	14,000.00
141-72410-201	868.00
141-72410-204	872.40
141-72410-212	203.00
141-73400-188	16,000.00
141-73400-201	992.00
141-73400-204	1,181.60
141-73400-212	232.00

1,818,407.60