

2026-27 Use of BEST Grant Funds Examples of Best Practices

This document includes guidance and examples of best practices for using BEST Grant funds in response to the budget language change (see p.463-464 in [ESSB5998](#)). Through this document, BEST hopes to provide additional clarity on the use of BEST Grant funds in support of grantees who are exploring possibilities to integrate the standard-based induction practices across their systems.

We encourage grantees to re-examine how BEST resources can be used to enhance educator effectiveness. Some examples to support Y1 educators using BEST funds are provided below.

Induction Standards	What's different?	What stays the same?	<u>2026-27 Use of BEST Grant Funds</u>
Hiring	N/A	Provide a hiring process of analyzing employment needs, providing an information-rich recruiting and selection process, and using shared decision-making to place novice educators in optimal assignments appropriate to their experience and students' needs.	No change to current practice. See 2026-27 Use of BEST Grant Funds .
Orientation	Y2 educators can't be paid with BEST funds as participants in orientations.	Orientations are offered and accessible to novice educators.	Y2 educators can be paid with BEST funds to attend orientations as peer collaborators in support of Y1 educator learning . For example, Y2 educators attend and share their first-year experience.
Mentoring	Y2 educators can't be paid with BEST funds for 1:1 mentoring time as a mentee.	Use BEST funds to identify, support, and grow mentor cadres through mentor professional development. Sustain mentor cadres for Y1 educators by assigning them to Y2 educators.	Mentors part of a district cadre can be paid with BEST funds to engage in ongoing learning and skill development in support of Y1 educator mentoring . Mentors who support Y2 educators can be identified as mentors growing to be highly



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		<p>Mentor cadres continue to be paid with BEST funds to attend mentor training to grow or sustain their practice as highly qualified mentors. See BEST Mentor Learning and Development Pathways.</p>	<p>qualified and mentors building their mentoring skills in support of future Y1 educator mentoring.</p> <p>See 2026-27 BEST Grant Assurances.</p>
Professional Learning	Y2 educators can't be paid with BEST funds for professional learning time as mentees.	<p>Y2 educators can continue to be identified as peer collaborators and observers to attend professional learning.</p> <p>BEST continues to encourage best practices integrating and sustaining induction systems that support novice educators to learn by teaching and to engage in a social learning experience with peer collaborators.</p>	<p>Y2 educators can be included in professional learning for Y1 novice educators.</p> <p>Y2 educators can be paid with BEST funds to attend professional learning as peer collaborators and observers in support of Y1 educator learning. For example, a professional learning experience can include a learning conversation facilitated by Y2 educators.</p>
Feedback and Formative Assessment	Y2 educators can't be paid with BEST funds for feedback and formative assessment time as mentees.	Y2 educators can continue to receive feedback and participate in formative assessments.	<p>Y2 educators can be paid with BEST funds to continue participating in feedback and formative assessments as peer collaborators and observers to attend a collaborative learning experience with Y1 educators. For example, after a mentor observes all their mentees, they can facilitate a group feedback session inclusive of Y1 and Y2 educators. Y1 educators will benefit from Y2 reflections.</p>
Program Assessment	N/A	Collaborators gather, analyze, and interpret data for each of the	No change to current practice. See 2026-27 Use of BEST Grant Funds .

Induction Standards	What's different?	What stays the same?	<u>2026-27 Use of BEST Grant Funds</u>
		Induction Program standards to show the degree of implementation of induction activities and the impact on beginning educator growth and student learning.	

Please reach out to [BEST](#) with any questions you might have.

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