

2026-27 Use of BEST Grant Funds

Funding for Induction

BEST collaborates with grantees to build district capacity and a collective sense of responsibility for novice educator and student success. A district's financial commitment to induction is part of sustainable and comprehensive work. Grant funds may be used to support induction activities aligned with district induction goals. Funds should not be used to supplant services that are provided by other sources. In broad terms, funding most often pays for time and travel.

Time

This includes the following:

- Mentors of First Year Educators: Stipends, salary, hourly time sheets, etc., including participation time in Mentor Roundtables and Mentor Academies. This can include training time for future mentors. BEST recommends supporting future mentors who are eligible to mentor based on [BEST Standards for Beginning Educator Induction, Page 23](#). With approval from BEST program staff, funds may be used to train ESA mentors who are not ESA certificated and have experience in the role they are mentoring.
- First Year Educators: Stipends or hourly time sheets for participation in at least 1 day of summer instructional orientation. NOTE: Grantee assurances for Year 1 educators.
- First Year Educators: Stipends or time sheets for professional learning that happens beyond the contracted workday
- Others: Stipends, salary, hourly time sheets, etc., for those leading induction work, providing new teacher professional learning, or working in collaboration with first year educators beyond contract day; substitute coverage for induction activities.

Travel

BEST funds cover in-state travel only. Traveling to counties in Idaho and Oregon that border Washington is considered in-state travel. Travel expenses might include:

- Mentor travel: Mileage/airfare, per diem lodging and meals to attend mentor professional learning; travel among schools for mentoring work; registration for mentor- relevant professional learning
- Induction leader and stakeholder team travel: Mileage/airfare, per diem lodging and meals to attend the BEST Grantee Convening and other induction leader work



Books

Books may be purchased with approval by BEST program staff. If purchased, books should be integrated into on-going professional learning reinforced through mentoring. Materials for instructional frameworks or curriculum may not be purchased with BEST funds.

Not Covered by Grant Funds

The following items are not allowable expenses: Office furniture or equipment; technology; classroom curriculum materials or classroom supplies; tangible gifts or reward items; food.