Start Here – BEST Grant Novice Educators Validation Tool – Two Pager

What is the BEST Grant Novice Educators Validation Tool?

As per the legislative intent of RCW 28A.415.265, "that the most successful education systems have robust, well-prepared educators and education leaders, with ample and relevant mentoring and professional learning opportunities appropriate to their roles and career aspirations," this data validation tool assists Local Education Agencies (LEAs) in reviewing the list of novice educators who may be eligible for the Beginning Educator Support Team (BEST) Grant in the Education Grants Management System (EGMS).

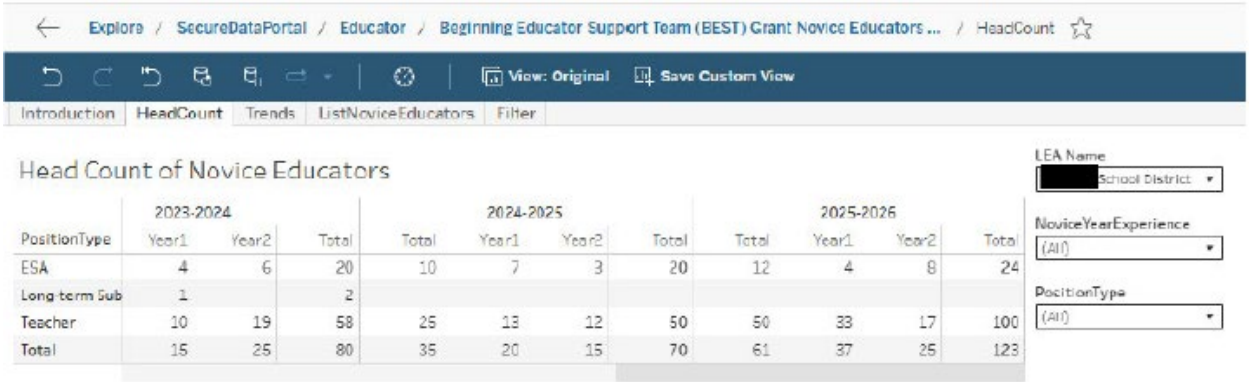
To streamline the BEST Grant application process in EGMS, this Tableau workbook provides lists and headcounts of first- and second-year educators, including Teachers, Long-term Substitute Teachers, and Education Staff Associates (ESAs), who may be eligible for BEST grant funding. As a result, LEAs are no longer required to enter individual novice educator information as part of the BEST Grant application.

How is it to be used?

The BEST Grant Novice Educators Validation Tool integrates data from Personnel Reporting (S-275), Comprehensive Education Research and Data Systems (CEDARS), the Educator Equity Data Collection (EEDC), and the Substitute Teacher Hiring and Compensation Report. Using these data sources, the tool identifies and displays novice educators who may be eligible for the BEST Grant.

LEAs are responsible for reviewing and validating the novice educator data displayed in the dashboard. If the data does not align with the LEA's records, corrections must be made in the underlying data sources listed above, not in the Tableau workbook itself. OSPI will update the data weekly with the most current information.

What the BEST Grant Novice Educators Validation Tool looks like



	2023-2024			2024-2025				2025-2026			
PositionType	Year1	Year2	Total	Total	Year1	Year2	Total	Total	Year1	Year2	Total
ESA	4	6	20	10	7	3	20	12	4	8	24
Long-term Sub	1		2								
Teacher	10	19	58	25	13	12	50	50	33	17	100
Total	15	25	80	35	20	15	70	61	37	25	123

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Who is it for?

The BEST Grant Novice Educators Validation Tool is intended for LEA administrators who apply for the BEST grant in EGMS; coordinate use of state and federal grants; make personnel decisions; support beginning educators; and plan for school and district improvement efforts.

What is its timeline?

The BEST Grant Novice Educators Validation Tool displays data from the 2020–2021 school year through the most recent school year. Data for the current school year is typically made available around November or December and is updated weekly. The availability and accuracy of the data depend on the timely submission of the data by LEAs to OSPI. Notifications regarding the validation tool are sent to subscribers of the Educator Equity Data Collection topic through OSPI's Granicus (formerly Gov Delivery) communication system.

How can you get help with this?

To access the validation tool, ask your district data security manager to assign you the Tableau SecureDataPortal-Educator Interactor user role (see page 11 of the EDS User Role Matrix). Once the role has been assigned, please allow up to 24 hours for access to be activated. Districts' staff can access and review their district's data through the Tableau Server in the Education Data System (EDS).

For guidance on using the validation tool, watch the Purpose of the tool, how to access, use, and navigate the tool (Video) for step-by-step instructions. The Introduction tab in the BEST Grant Novice Educators Validation Tool has key overview information. To learn about eligible educators, refer to the 2026-27 Identifying Novice Educators guide.

For assistance with the validation tool or other OSPI educator data collections and resources, visit the Educator Data Sharing web page, email the Educator Data, Research and Development team at EducatorData@k12.wa.us, or join our bi-weekly Office Hours (SY26-27 Schedule).

For Tableau access issues, contact your district data security manager.

For questions about the BEST program and BEST Grants, contact to BEST@k12.wa.us.