
BUDGET UNIT BRIEF – FY 2023

Fiscal Services Division

July 1, 2022



Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

Therapeutic Classroom Incentive Fund

Purpose and History

2020 Iowa Acts, [Senate File 2360](#) (Classroom Environment and Therapeutic Classrooms Act), directed the Department of Education (DE) to establish a Therapeutic Classroom Incentive Grant Program to provide competitive grants to school districts for the establishment of therapeutic classrooms. The DE is to develop grant selection criteria, with highest priority given to applications submitted by school districts located in Mental Health and Disability Services Regions providing children's behavioral health services and proposing to serve the most students. The DE is to award the grants equitably across small (fewer than 600 pupils), medium (600 to 2,499 pupils), and large (more than 2,499 pupils) school districts.

A therapeutic classroom is defined as a classroom designed for the purpose of providing support for any student whose emotional, social, or behavioral needs interfere with the student's ability to be successful in the current educational environment, with or without supports, until the student is able to successfully return to the student's current education environment, with or without supports, including but not limited to the general education classroom.

Funding

Statewide funding for grants shall not exceed the product of the State cost per pupil (SCPP) multiplied by a weighting of 1.50 multiplied by 150 pupils. Grants are awarded by estimated classroom size as follows:

- A classroom of 1 to 5 will receive the funding for 5 pupils.
- A classroom of 6 to 10 will receive the funding for 10 pupils.
- A classroom of 11 to 15 will receive the funding for 15 pupils.

2021 Iowa Acts, [House File 868](#) (Education Appropriations Act), provided initial funding of \$1.6 million.

The DE may also accept gifts, grants, bequests, and other private contributions, as well as federal moneys, for deposit in the Fund.

Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code section [256.25](#)

Iowa Administrative Code [281—14](#)

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More Information

Iowa Department of Education: educateiowa.gov

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