

FY27 Special Education Teacher Pathway Program Grant Overview

The Special Education Teacher Pathway scholarship funds are provided by the Minnesota Department of Education under [Minnesota Statutes 2025, section 122A.77](#), grants under the Special Education Teacher Pipeline program to develop a pipeline of trained, licensed Tier 3 or 4 special education teachers.

- The primary purpose of the grant is to provide tuition assistance and/or other allowable financial and programmatic assistance to qualified candidates currently employed with partner Southwest Minnesota districts so candidates can earn their initial special education teacher license or become properly licensed for their current special education teacher role.
- The first priority is to fund employees who hold a Minnesota Tier 1 or Tier 2 teaching license teaching in special education. The second priority is to fund employees who hold a MN Tier 3 or Tier 4 teaching license with an OFP in special education teaching in special education.
- Recipients of Special Education Teacher Pathway grant funds are expected to pursue special education teacher employment within Minnesota, especially in their district or the SWWC area.

Grant Funding Request Limits: Tuition/Fees, Books, and Incidentals (Per Semester)

Tuition/Fees/Books/Etc. Request Maximum

- Application Fee – Up to \$50 (see the [TPP Application tab](#) for application codes)
- Books/Materials – Up to \$200 per semester (must be pre-approved prior to purchasing)
- Graduate Tuition/Fees – Up to \$600 per credit
- Undergraduate Tuition/Fees – Up to \$450 per credit
- Only special education licensure courses are eligible for funding
 - Graduate-level research courses are not covered
 - For dual licensure candidates, general education courses are not eligible for funding

Items NOT Funded With the SPED Teacher Pathway

Includes but is not limited to:

- Research courses and materials
- Repeat courses already paid for with SPED Pathway funding (failed, withdrawn, dropped after fee date)
- Courses for dual licensure in elementary education
- Dual special education licensure areas (unless pre-approved upon acceptance for the 916 Program)
- School materials such as pencils, notebooks, computers, etc.
- Childcare

Note: Funding awards may vary based on availability of funds, equity considerations, and prioritization of Tier I and II educators. Research courses, unrelated general education coursework, and materials like notebooks, pens or research books are not covered by grant funds. Repeat courses (or equivalent courses taken due to dropped, withdrawn, failed, etc.) are not covered by the grant funds if SPED Pathway funds have already been used for the course. All federal and state grants and scholarships should be applied prior to SPED Pathway funding is awarded. Any overage paid from the SPED Pathway after the SPED Pathway Scholarship is applied must be returned to SWWC. Final funding decisions are at the sole discretion of SWWC and may change at any time for any reason.

Checklist of Items to Include (attach) with this Funding Request Form – send to:

sped.pathway@swwc.org

Email Subject: Fall 2026 Funding Request (First Name. Last Name)

Please make sure all items are included with your funding request.

1. FY27 Fall 2026 Funding Request Form filled out **completely** and with your **initials** and **signature** (not just typed).
2. Fall 2026 Tuition and Fees detailed tuition statement (including course numbers and names) along with all other funding awards (grants, scholarships, etc.). *To get a PRINTABLE DETAILED tuition statement, click the red balance or PDF logo in your e-services account.*
3. FAFSA 2026-2027 application confirmation / proof of application. *(Please send it again if sent prior.)*
4. Signed Employment Verification for 2026-2027 school year. This must be submitted to receive a funding award letter.
5. Academic Plan (semester by semester courses listed through your licensure program).
6. Unofficial transcript (if not already sent with Spring 26 grades). ***Not needed if just starting the Pathway.***

*All requested items MUST be submitted with your funding request. Please make sure to initial EACH eligibility confirmation statement that you are able to as confirmation of understanding of the FY27 SPED Pathway guidelines.

If you have any questions while filling out your Funding Request Form, please contact Lori Rangaard, Program Success Coach.

Thank you,



Lori Rangaard

Program Success Coach

SWWC Special Education Teacher Pipeline Grant Program

507-706-2241 | lori.rangaard@swwc.org

SPED Teacher Pathway Program Webpage: <https://www.swwc.org/programs/tl/spedpathway>

PLEASE FILL OUT COMPLETELY ON BOTH SIDES

Today's Date:

Participant's Full Name	First and Last Name	Former Name (if applicable)	
Permanent Address City, State & Zip Code	Address (Street/PO Box, City, State & Zip)		
Participant's Email / Phone	District Email Address	Participant's Phone Number	
Job Title for 2026-2027 & License(s) required	Job Title Please be specific about your role for 26-27 .	Special Education License(s) <u>required</u> for your role 26-27 .	
MN Teaching License Folder Number	License Number	License Expiration	Current License Tier Current License Area
Current Employer Name (Partner District)	Employing District Name	Current District Supervisor's Name	
University Name (TPP) & Licensure Level and Categorical Area	Teacher Preparation Partner Name	Licensure Program Level BA / BS or MA / MS	Licensure Program Area ABS-ASD-EBD-SLD-ECSE- etc.
Estimated Student Teaching / Grad Semester / Credits Remaining	When do you anticipate student teaching / graduating / completing licensure program? (Your last semester of SPED funding.)	How many licensure credits do you have remaining after Fall 2026? (NOT including research courses not paid for by SPED Pathway)	

Funding Request – Fall 2026 Semester (WGU students - Term starts in Sept./Oct./Nov./Dec.)

*** Fall 2026 detailed tuition statement (with course name & number Listed) must be uploaded with this request. ***

Number of Special Education Licensure Credits Enrolled for Fall 2026 = _____

Types and amounts of other grants, scholarships, or outside funding you anticipate—Please list name and anticipated funding amount: examples – Pell Grant; MN State Grant; NorthStar Grant; MN Student Teaching Grant, etc.):

Tuition & Fees Funding Request (Must provide detailed tuition statement): \$ _____

Books & Materials Funding Request (Must provide book/material list with prices listed): \$ _____

Other (Must provide detailed costs and/or provide a receipt.): \$ _____

Specify Description and cost: _____

Total FY27 Fall 2026 Special Education Pathway Grant Funding Requested: \$ _____

Check one:

☐ Employment Verification is on file and unchanged ☐ Employment Verification needs to be updated due to new job status.

Filled out by grant staff:

Total Amount Awarded Fall 2026: _____ Authorized Signature: _____ Date: _____

Award Amounts – Tuition: _____ Book/Materials: _____ Other: _____



Eligibility Confirmation—**Read & Initial EACH statement** you can confirm AND sign or e-sign at the bottom.

I verify that I **will be employed** in a district in SW Minnesota that is a grant partner with SWWC for **SY 2026-27**. I verify that the Employment Verification on file with SWWC is accurate and up to date.

I have submitted my **2026-27 FAFSA** or MN DREAM Act and I understand that this is a program requirement to remain in good standing within the Special Education Teacher Pathway program. **(Must send proof of application.)**

I have filled out/updated and submitted my FERPA/Release of Information to include SPED Pathway grant staff (and university staff if applicable), and I understand that this is a program requirement to remain in good standing within the Special Education Teacher Pathway program *(May already be on file with SWWC)*.

I agree to submit my transcripts (unofficial) to grant staff, and I understand that this is a program requirement to remain in good standing within the Special Education Teacher Pathway program.

I agree to notify grant staff of any changes in my academic status, employment status, contact information or any other information that changes my status in the SPED Pathway Program or for my Fall 2026 funding request.

I understand that the SPED Teacher Pathway program funding does not cover research and other general education courses and that I will be responsible for paying for research or general education courses should I choose to take them.

I agree to meet with and/or attend required (up to four) coaching sessions provided by the Program Success Coach each year, and I understand that this is a program requirement to remain in good standing with the SPED Pathway.

I confirm that I am in good academic standing (at least GPA 2.5 or higher and other requirements determined by TPP) with my university. If you are not in good academic standing at your university, you confirm that you have an academic improvement plan on file with grant staff and/or are willing to create one with grant staff.

I understand that withdrawing from or dropping a class may put me at risk for continuing in this program.

I understand that courses that are dropped, withdrawn, and/or failed will not be paid for again if payment was made from the SPED Pathway for course credits. Equivalent courses taken in place of a dropped, withdrawn, or failed course will not be paid for by the SPED Pathway. I am responsible for letting grant staff know of any such courses.

I understand that any overage paid to me from my TPP because of a SPED Pathway Scholarship must be returned to SWWC. I understand that I am responsible to notify SWWC of any overage.

I acknowledge that my total funding request is within the allowable amounts listed on the first page of these documents and as they are listed in the [Special Education Teacher Pathway Program Handbook](#).

I understand that grant funding requests are reviewed and awarded each semester, and funding is not guaranteed for the full duration of a licensure program. Funding decisions each semester are based on availability of grant funds, equity considerations, and prioritization of Tier I and II educators.

Final funding decisions are at the sole discretion of SWWC grant staff and may be modified at any time for any reason. To be considered for Fall 2026 funding, please submit the Funding Request Form along with **all** required supporting documents to sped.pathway@swwc.org no later than August 14, 2026. Incomplete submissions or failure to provide all necessary documentation may result in denial of funding for Fall 2026. Award letters will be sent within two weeks of funding the funding request window closing. If summer courses were taken, all Fall 2026 Funding Awards are pending Summer 2026 grades.

Check One:

☐ I have initialed EACH statement of confirmation.

☐ I am not able to confirm / agree to all statements above.

Full Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____