SOUTHWEST WEST CENTRAL SERVICE COOPERATIVE

SWWC

Education & Administrative Resources

FY27 SPED Teacher Pathway Application Checklist

Use this checklist to help prepare for and apply for the FY 27 Special Education Teacher Pathway Program with SWWC

⭐ Priority Candidates

The priority for funding and acceptance for FY27 SPED Teacher Pathway includes:

⭐Tier 1 or Tier 2 teachers currently serving or assigned to teach in a special education teacher position for 2026-27 school year.

⭐Tier 3 or Tier 4 teachers on an Out-of-Field Permission (OFP) who need to be properly licensed in their special education teaching role for 2026-27 school year.

*FY27 SPED Pathway is currently only accepting Priority Candidates. FY27 SPED Teacher Pathway may consider opening applications to paras, non-licensed staff, and other special education staff for the 2027-28 school year.

✅ Eligibility Requirements

- ☐ Currently employed by a participating SWWC district or partner organization.
- ☐ Employed in one of the following roles:
  - ☐ Tier 1 or Tier 2 Special Education Teacher for 2026-2027 school year.
  - ☐ Tier 3 or Tier 4 license on an OFP working as a Special Education Teacher for the 2026-2027 school year and obtaining a license in OFP area.
  - ☐ Demonstrate a commitment to becoming a licensed Special Education Teacher in the district you are employed in.

✅ Before You Apply

- ☐ Review the SPED Teacher Pathway Program website and eligibility requirements.
- ☐ Meet with your building principal or superintendent **prior to applying** to complete the Principal or Superintendent Meeting Form. *Must be done and signed by you and your administrator. The document will need to be uploaded in the application process.
- ☐ Identify your desired special education licensure area.
- ☐ Consider which approved Teacher Preparation Partner (TPP) may be the best fit for you.
- ☐ Be prepared to begin coursework by the required start date of Spring 2027 (Jan. 2027).
- ☐ Gather application materials needed (see below).

✅ Application Materials Needed

- ☐ Current résumé.
- ☐ A Letters of Support from:
  - ☐ Director of Special Education, OR
  - ☐ Superintendent, OR
  - ☐ Building Administrator
- ☐ Principal or Superintendent Meeting Form completed and signed prior to applying.
- ☐ Complete the online application during the application window.

SOUTHWEST WEST CENTRAL SERVICE COOPERATIVE

SWWC

Education & Administrative Resources

FY27 SPED Teacher Pathway Application Checklist

Use this checklist to help prepare for and apply for the FY 27 Special Education Teacher Pathway Program with SWWC

✅ Financial Planning

- ☐ Understand that acceptance into the program does not guarantee scholarship funding for your entire licensure program. Scholarships are determined semester by semester based on program guidelines and available resources.
- ☐ Be willing to complete the FAFSA each year you are in the SPED Pathway.
- ☐ Explore additional financial aid options if needed (MN Teach Grant; MN Student Teacher Grant, etc.).
- ☐ Review potential tuition, fee, and textbook costs based on max funding guidelines.
- ☐ Understand that research courses/materials for a master's degree are not covered in the SPED Pathway.
- ☐ Understand that the SPED Pathway will only consider funding for special education required licensure courses.
- ☐ Understand that the SPED Pathway will not pay for a repeated course (failed, withdrawn, dropped with fee paid)

✅ If Accepted

- ☐ Apply to an approved Teacher Preparation Program (TPP).
- ☐ Complete FERPA authorization.
- ☐ Complete the 2026-2027 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form.
    - ☐ Submit screenshot of final application page or application confirmation.
- ☐ Meet with your TPP advisor to develop a licensure plan.
- ☐ Schedule a meeting with the SPED Pathway Success Coach to confirm program requirements and work through the application and funding request process.
- ☐ Plan to attend any required orientation to the SPED Pathway Program.
- ☐ Submit funding requests by the established deadline each semester.
- ☐ Maintain required academic progress and GPA requirements (2.5 GPA).
- ☐ Complete SPED Pathway requests in a timely manner.

Disclaimer: This checklist is to be used as a guide for interested applicants to the FY27 SPED Teacher Pathway Program. This checklist does not list all requirements and the candidate is responsible for following SPED Pathway guidelines as stated in the Letter of Commitment upon acceptance and the SPED Pathway Handbook. Guidelines and requirements may change throughout the program and will be communicated to candidates. Grant staff have the final authority for all grant decisions.