

# Therapeutic Classroom Implementation Grant

## Contents

Purpose .....	1
Legislative Authority .....	1
What is a Therapeutic Classroom? .....	1
Eligibility Information.....	2
Grant Application .....	2
Grant Application Items .....	2
Grant Award Information .....	3
Funds Available .....	3
Selection Criteria .....	3
Selection .....	4
Distribution and Use of Funds .....	4

## Purpose

The Therapeutic Classroom Grant provides competitive grants to public school districts to establish therapeutic classrooms for learners ages 3 to 21 whose emotional, social, or behavioral needs interfere with their ability to be successful in their current educational environment (Iowa Code 256.25). Districts applying for the grant may seek funds to establish new classrooms and/or install critical components into current classroom/programs that they are developing into therapeutic classrooms. This worksheet will help prepare eligible schools in applying for a Therapeutic Classroom Implementation Grant.

## Legislative Authority

Iowa Code 256.25 creates a competitive therapeutic classroom incentive grant for public school districts to establish therapeutic classroom(s). The grant provides an up-front award for start-up costs pending legislative appropriation for the 2024-2025 school year. While districts must use a portion of the grant award during the current school year to establish therapeutic classrooms, districts may carry forward funds as long as the funds follow the purposes outlined in the grant.

## What is a Therapeutic Classroom?

"Therapeutic classroom" means a 'classroom' designed for the purpose of providing support for any student, with or without an Individualized Education Program (IEP), 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.

A school district may include therapeutic classrooms as part of its district's or building's tiers of supports. The word 'classroom' is a descriptor of an educational set of services that create the educational environment that may include but is not required to include a separate physical setting from other students. [Iowa Administrative Code 281-14](#)

## Eligibility Information

All Iowa public school districts who are establishing one or more therapeutic classrooms within their district are eligible to apply for the Therapeutic Classroom Grant.

## Grant Application

Districts may apply for the Therapeutic Classroom grant by submitting their application in the Therapeutic Classroom Grant Application Portal by May 1, 2025. District applicants should prepare their application using the grant application items found on the [Therapeutic Classroom Grant webpage at educate.iowa.gov](#).

## Grant Application Items

### Applicant Information

List district name where the Therapeutic Classroom will be housed.

Choose size of district: Small (0-599 students), Medium (600-2499 students) or Large (2500 or more students).

List the building name(s) and grade(s) where the Therapeutic Classroom(s) will be implemented.

\*If applying as a consortium, include the names and grades of buildings and districts that will be participating.

List the [Behavioral Health District\(s\)](#) building(s) are located in.

Did your district apply for a Therapeutic Classroom Grant in previous years? If so, was funding received?

List School Business Officer and contact information.

List Therapeutic Classroom primary contact information.

List administration or secondary Therapeutic Classroom contact information.

### Assurances

Does this application have building and district leadership support? Yes/No

Has the applicant reviewed and agreed to the [Therapeutic Classroom Assurance](#)? Yes/No

Grant funds cannot be used to maintain established Therapeutic Classrooms. If you have received previous Therapeutic Classroom Grant funds, describe how grant application will establish new therapeutic classrooms.

### Therapeutic Classroom Implementation Rubric

Provide scores for completed [Therapeutic Classroom Implementation Rubric](#).

### Implementation Narrative

The following narrative sections should be based on your [Therapeutic Classroom Implementation Rubric](#).

#### Need & Goals for Therapeutic Classroom(s) 10 points

Discuss strengths and opportunities for growth from the Leadership and Infrastructure components of the rubric. How will required TC components be met? How will funds support implementation?

#### Criteria for referral, admission, monitoring and exit 10 points

Discuss strengths and opportunities for growth from the Assessment & Data-Based Decision-Making component of the rubric. How will required components be met? How will funds support implementation?

#### Universal and Supplemental-Intensive Tiers 30 points

Discuss strengths and opportunities for growth from the Universal Tier and Supplemental-Intensive Tiers components of the rubric. How will required components be met? How will funds support implementation?

## Optional - Collaborations/Partnerships

To establish therapeutic classroom(s) in the district, a district applicant **may** collaborate and partner with one or more school districts, nonpublic schools and/or community partners. While collaborations are optional, in the event of a tie, competitive applicant districts with strong partnerships will receive priority. This priority is required by Iowa Code 256.25.

If applicable, provide letter(s) of support from partner organizations/entities.

## Use of Funds

Complete and upload the [Therapeutic Classroom Award Worksheet](#),

See [Distribution and Use of Funds](#) section for additional information.

## Grant Award Information

### Funds Available

The Therapeutic Classroom Grant provides up-front incentive funds. Pending legislation, the Iowa Department of Education will distribute up to the maximum amount allocated to competitive applicant districts using the below formulas. Grant expenditures are based on the State Cost Per Pupil (SCPP) formulas below.

To ensure grant funds are distributed as equitably as possible across small, medium and large districts, applications must adhere to the following guidelines:

- Small Districts (0-599 students) may apply for funding 1-2 therapeutic classrooms
- Medium Districts (600-2499 students) may apply for funding 1-3 therapeutic classrooms
- Large Districts (2500 or more students) may apply for funding 1-6 therapeutic classrooms

Iowa Code requires classrooms to serve 1-5 students, 6-10 students, OR 11-15 students. Funding formula is determined by the following student rates:

- 1-5 students = SCPP x 1.5 x 5
- 6-10 students = SCPP x 1.5 x 10
- 11-15 students = SCPP x 1.5 x 15

Total funding = # of therapeutic classrooms x # of students/classroom

*Note: The Department is not bound by any estimates in this notice. Distribution of funds is dependent on funds being allocated. Final funding allowable will be based on fiscal year State Cost Per Pupil. The grant is supplemental and while it is based on the number of students the therapeutic programming will serve, it is independent of the per pupil funding districts already receive.*

### Selection Criteria

Applicants will be awarded funds based on competitive selection criteria. Each grantee must implement a program that builds required therapeutic classroom supports.

The Department will evaluate and score each district applicant against the following competitive criteria.

Area	Description	Points
<b>Need &amp; Goals for Therapeutic Classroom/s</b> Leadership/Infrastructure	Extent to which the applicant district has: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• identified how TC components for leadership and infrastructure will be met</li></ul>	10

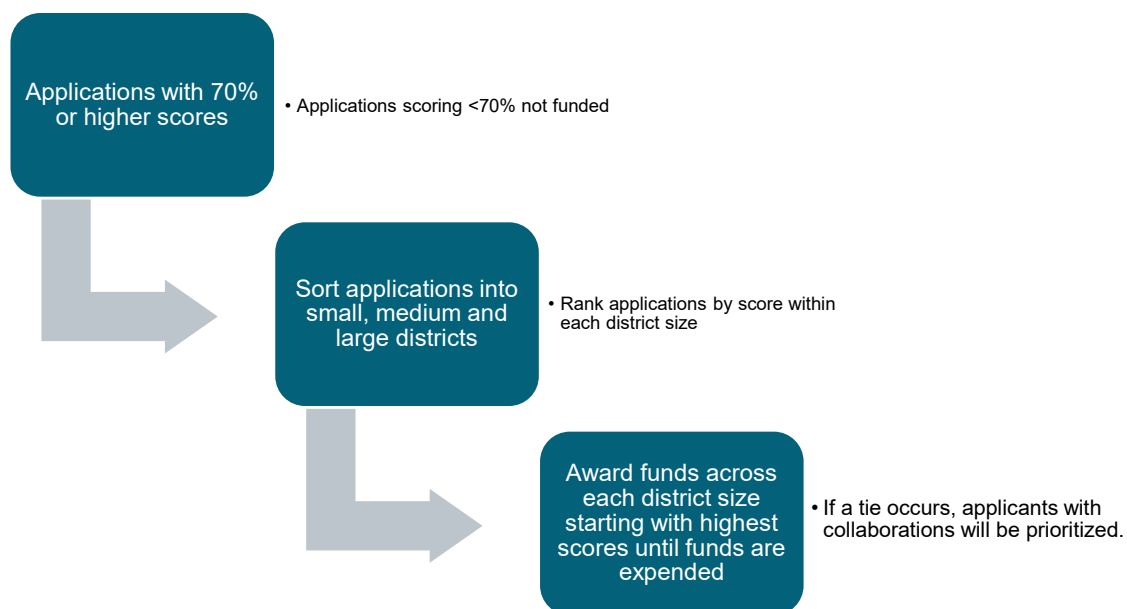
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>identified how funds will support leadership and infrastructure components</li> </ul>	
<b>Criteria for Classroom Referral, Admission, Monitoring and Exit (ADBDM)</b>	Extent to which the applicant district has: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>outlined ADBDM for the building/district</li> <li>outlined ADBDM for student supports</li> </ul>	10
<b>Therapeutic Classroom Plan</b> Universal Supplemental-Intensive Tiers	Extent to which the applicant district outlined a plan to establish therapeutic classroom components including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>identified how universal tier will be met</li> <li>identified how supplemental-Intensive tiers will be met</li> <li>described how funds will support implementation</li> </ul>	30
<b>Use of Funds</b>	Extent to which the applicant district outlined allowable expenditures aligned to required therapeutic classroom components and high quality and evidence-based actions and activities.	10

## Selection

Iowa Code 256.25, subsection 3, require selection to be based on the following priorities:

- First Priority:** Competitive district applicants that applied previously, but were not awarded a grant.  
\*Districts must apply to be considered for a grant cycle.
- Second Priority:** Competitive district applicants that collaborate and partner with one or more school districts, area education agencies, accredited nonpublic schools, nonprofit agencies or institutions that provide mental health services for children.
- Third Priority:** Competitive district applicants located in mental health and disability services regions (Behavioral Health District) providing behavioral health services for children.

The selection process below will be used in the following order to award district applicants after the district proposals are scored on the above competitive selection criteria. Effort will be made to fund awards across district sizes and regional districts.



## Distribution and Use of Funds

The Therapeutic Classroom Implementation Grant may be used by public school districts for development of therapeutic classroom supports and/or therapeutic classroom components. Districts have substantial local discretion in prioritizing spending and should make decisions keeping in mind that the therapeutic classroom grant is one-time funding.

### **Recommended uses include, but are not limited to**

- Professional learning and coaching to implement one or more components of the therapeutic classroom. (See Therapeutic Classroom Implementation Rubric)
- Research-based resources, materials, software, supplies and purchased services necessary to provide the therapeutic classroom services
- High-quality valid and reliable resources that accurately identify student needs for social-emotional-behavioral health concerns
- Parent and family engagement activities to increase awareness of SEBH supports
- Assistance to parents and families to support the SEBH needs of their child
- Consultation/program support from community-based mental health organizations
- Establishing or implementing mental health services and supports
- Age/development and program appropriate educational materials and supplies

### **Allowable, but not recommended due to sustainability**

- Recurring costs (i.e., salary and benefits for staff, technology subscriptions, ongoing mental health services and supports)

### **Therapeutic Grant funds may NOT be used for items such as the following**

- Transportation
- Out-of-school programming/childcare
- Space: leasing, facility repairs and improvements or construction
- Seclusion room or space
- Resources, materials, software, supplies and purchased services that are provided by the regular school program funding
- Leisure resources that are not appropriate for use in the typical age/grade classrooms unless specifically designated by an individual learner's behavior intervention plan (BIP)