



2025 Therapeutic Classroom Report

Grants and Services

November 2025



Department of Education

State of Iowa
Department of Education
Grimes State Office Building
400 E. 14th Street
Des Moines, IA 50319-0146

Administration

McKenzie Snow, Director

Division PK-12 Learning

Tina Wahlert, Administrator

Bureau of Academics and Learner Supports

Tom Wood, Chief

Lyn Jenkins, Administrative Consultant

It is the policy of the Iowa Department of Education not to discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, sexual orientation, national origin, sex, disability, religion, age, political party affiliation, or actual or potential parental, family or marital status in its programs, activities, or employment practices as required by the Iowa Code sections 216.9 and 256.10(2), Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. § 2000d2000e), the Equal Pay Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. § 206, et seq.), Title IX (Educational Amendments, 20 U.S.C. §§ 1681 – 1688), Section 504 (Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. § 794), and the Americans with Disabilities Act (42 U.S.C. § 12101, et seq.). If you have questions or complaints related to compliance with this policy by the Iowa Department of Education, please contact the legal counsel for the Iowa Department of Education, Grimes State Office Building, 400 E. 14th Street, Des Moines, IA 50319-0146, telephone number: 515-281-5295, or the Director of the Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education, Cesar E. Chavez Memorial Building, 1244 Speer Boulevard, Suite 310, Denver, CO 80204-3582, telephone number: 303-844-5695, TDD number: 800-877-8339, email: OCR.Denver@ed.gov

Contents

Legislative Requirement	4
Therapeutic Classroom Grants	4
Therapeutic Classroom Claims	4
Therapeutic Classroom Claims Reimbursement	5
Therapeutic Classroom Requirements.....	5

Legislative Requirement

Iowa Code 256.25 establishes the therapeutic classroom incentive grant program and department responsibilities. Therapeutic classroom grants are subject to annual legislative appropriation.

Iowa Code 256.25A addresses therapeutic classroom claims requirements.

Iowa Administrative Code 281.14.13 further defines the requirements of a therapeutic classroom for grants, claims and reporting purposes.

Therapeutic Classroom Grants

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.

Public school districts may apply for the therapeutic classroom grant each spring subject to legislative renewal and appropriations. Iowa Code 256.25 specifies the priorities and funding formula for the grant process.

Therapeutic Classroom Grant Funds

The table below provides a summary of the number of districts and amount of grant funding distributed through the Therapeutic Classroom Grant process.

Fiscal Year	Number of Districts	Total Grant Funding
2022	6	\$1,626,075.00
2023	10	\$1,708,423.97
2024	6	\$2,329,240.00
2025	10	\$2,850,861.00
2026	8	\$2,074,045.00

Therapeutic Classroom Claims

Iowa Code requires an appropriation from the general fund to the Department in an amount necessary to pay all approved claims submitted for therapeutic services each year, beginning on or after July 1, 2022.

A school district that provides a therapeutic classroom according to approved requirements to students enrolled in a school district or an accredited nonpublic school may submit claims for students assigned to the therapeutic classroom who do not have an assigned weighting under section Iowa Code chapter 256B.9, subsection 1, paragraph “b,” & “c,” or “d,” and for whom behavioral intervention plans have been implemented.

Iowa Code 256.25A specifies the funding formula and process for claims.

Therapeutic Classroom Claim Funds

The table below provides a summary of amounts of claims by fiscal year. There were no eligible claims made for transportation to a therapeutic classroom in any year. No funding for therapeutic classroom transportation claims was appropriated for Fiscal Year 2026.

Fiscal Year	Number of Districts	Total Service Claims
2022	1	\$60,901.69
2023	4	\$114,832.61
2024	11	\$750,255.34
2025	12	\$1,240,641.94

Therapeutic Classroom Requirements

A school district is not required to operate a therapeutic classroom; however, a school district is required to ensure therapeutic services are available, whether in-district or otherwise, to students who need those services to access or benefit from an education.

- Each fall, districts are required to sign assurances and report within the Consolidated Accountability and Support Application (CASA) the number of therapeutic classrooms they operate.
- Districts must report transfers and referrals to therapeutic classrooms using their student information system.

For state reporting and reimbursement purposes to be considered a therapeutic classroom the program/classroom must serve both students with and without IEPs and include all the components listed in Iowa Administrative Code 281-14.13