

2026 Therapeutic Classroom Report

Grants and Services

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State of Iowa
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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.

For a list of districts funded each year visit the Department's Therapeutic Classroom webpage.

https://educate.iowa.gov/pk-12/student-supports/specialized-support/therapeutic-classroom

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
2027	10	$2,351,382.00

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 Service Claims

The table below provides a summary of amounts of claims for eligible therapeutic classroom services by fiscal year.

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
2026	14	$ 1,926,207.70

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.