Maryland
STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Teacher Relocation Incentive Grant, FY 2027
Frequently Asked Questions

The list below constitutes frequently asked questions about the Teacher Relocation Incentive Grant (Grant). This page will be updated with frequently asked questions and answers on a continual basis.

1. **Question**: Must funds provided to teachers through the Grant be allocated to the "Salaries & Wages" budget object?
   Answer: Local education agencies (LEAs) may consider whether to allocate funds provided to teachers through the Grant to the “Other Charges” budget object. Travel reimbursement may fall under the “Other Charges” budget object as described in the Financial Reporting Manual for Maryland Public Schools. Should an LEA choose to do so, on the C-1-25, the expense may be allocated in Row: 212 Fixed Charges, Column: Other Charges.

2. **Question**: For the purposes of this grant, how are “community schools” defined?
   Answer: “Community schools” are those described in Md. Code, Education Article § 6-123. An updated list of community schools can be found here.

3. **Question**: What documentation must an LEA provide to receive reimbursement for funds provided to a teacher through the Grant?
   Answer: The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) requires that LEAs retain a copy of the out-of-state professional certificate of teachers receiving funds through the Grant for audit purposes. Additionally, LEAs will provide a candidate list to MSDE and a copy of the signed contract between the candidate and LEA.

4. **Question**: Is there a specific MOU that teachers must sign, indicating they agree to remain with us for two years? If so, what are the repercussions if they do not fulfill this commitment?
   Answer: Teachers may commit to teaching in a community school for two years using whatever form the LEA deems appropriate. Md. Code, Education Article §6-131 requires grant recipients to commit to teaching in a community school for two years, however the statute does not list repercussions.

5. **Question**: If an LEA currently has a Title II Relocation Grant for teachers relocating 75 miles or more to Maryland, will candidates be eligible to submit expenses for reimbursement from both this Title II Relocation Grant and the Teacher Relocation Incentive Grant?
   Answer: The MSDE Relocation Incentive Grant is given independent of other financial aid. Please check with the Title II office of the federal government for any restrictions on their end.

6. **Question**: Are school counselors, including those who serve in instructional roles, eligible to receive funds under the Grant?
   Answer: No, staff members eligible to receive funds under the Grant must be classified as teachers.

7. **Question**: Are teachers who hold an unencumbered license but did not teach in another state, eligible to receive funds under the Grant?
   Answer: Yes, statute requires that teachers receiving funds under the Grant "[h]old an unencumbered license that is not restricted, probationary, provisional, temporary, or in any way serves as a substitute for fully licensed teachers in another state."

8. **Question**: Must a teacher have taught in another state to be eligible to receive funds under the Grant?
   Answer: No, if the individual holds an unencumbered license from another state, but did not teach in another state, they are eligible to receive funds under the Grant.

9. **Question**: Are gross ups allowable to cover federal taxes, FICA, and state taxes?
   Answer: No. Gross-ups are not allowable. If the payment is treated as taxable wages, applicable employee tax withholdings must be deducted from the teacher's total grant allocation. These amounts are included in the maximum $2,000 available per eligible teacher. The LEA may not use grant funds to pay or gross up the LEA's employer payroll taxes or other employer tax obligations. The total grant-funded amount may not exceed $2,000 per eligible teacher.