CLASSROOM SUPPLY REIMBURSEMENT

If funds are specifically appropriated or TEA identifies available funds, TEA shall establish a reimbursement program under which TEA provides funds to districts for the purpose of reimbursing classroom teachers and campus library media specialists who expend personal funds on classroom supplies.

USE OF FUNDS

The District shall allow each classroom teacher and campus library media specialist in the District who is reimbursed under the reimbursement program to use the funds at the teacher's or specialist's discretion, except that the funds must be used for the benefit of the District's students.

The District may allow, but not require, teachers and campus library media specialists to pool their respective supply monies for the purchase of an item, as long as the item meets the student benefit criteria established by the District.

Education Code 21.414; 19 TAC 61.1081(d)(3)

MAXIMUM REIMBURSEMENT

Total reimbursement to an individual teacher or campus library media specialist in a single year from the Classroom Supply Reimbursement Grant Program may not exceed $200. Reimbursements from local funds may exceed the matching requirement (see below).

UNEXPENDED FUNDS

Funds for each grant period must be expended by the end of the grant period.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible to participate in the classroom supply reimbursement program, the District shall be required to:

1. Reapply to participate each year;
2. Account for funds in accordance with applicable state and federal requirements;
3. Match any funds provided to the District under the reimbursement program with local funds to be used for the same purpose. The District may not use funds received under the reimbursement program to replace local funds used by the District for the same purpose. Local funds may be donated or otherwise provided to the District by community groups, parent/teacher organizations, businesses, professional organizations, and others.
    a. "Local funds" are all funds over which the District exercises control or approval authority used to reimburse teachers for tangible items of direct benefit to students.
    b. Individual reimbursements from the Classroom Supply Reimbursement Grant Program must be matched with an equal amount of local funds.

4. Ensure that items purchased with grant funds are tangible items, of direct benefit to students. In order to participate in the classroom supply reimbursement program, the District's application must include a District policy that would ensure each teacher or campus library media specialist meets the requirement that an expenditure will benefit students;

5. Retain ownership of all durable goods purchased under this program. The District may develop a procedure allowing each teacher or campus library media specialist to retain ownership of goods of nominal value purchased with grant money; and

6. Return unexpended Classroom Supply Reimbursement Grant Program balances at the end of the state fiscal year for which they were awarded.

PENALTIES

A district found in noncompliance with TEA's rules regarding the Classroom Supply Reimbursement Grant Program must reimburse the state for funds unaccounted for or used for purposes not meeting the requirements of the statute.

A district found to have reduced its local expenditures may be required to refund the entire grant to the state.

DISPUTE RESOLUTION AND APPEALS

A determination by the Board of any dispute involving teacher or campus library media specialist reimbursement is final and may not be appealed to TEA, except as provided in Education Code 7.057. Nothing in this provision precludes TEA from recovering funds from the District pursuant to an audit.

A determination by TEA in the administration of this program is final and may not be appealed.

Note: TEA regulations under Education Code 21.214 expire September 1, 2007.

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19 TAC 61.1081

TRAVEL SERVICES

An employee of the District who is engaged in official business may participate in the comptroller's contract for travel services. *Gov't Code 2171.055(f)*