

# SCHOOLS/DISTRICTS: NEED SPECIAL ED TEACHERS?



**HCOE and Cal Poly Humboldt have funding to support up to 7 Teacher Resident candidates to obtain their special education credential.**

**Selected candidates will receive \$13,000 to cover credential costs through Cal Poly Humboldt. Additional funds are available to districts and experienced mentor teachers to support the candidates.**

**Learn more at [hcoe.org/teacher-residency](https://hcoe.org/teacher-residency). See reverse for full program details.**

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**Cal Poly  
Humboldt.**

The Humboldt Office of Education (HCOE) and Cal Poly Humboldt (CPH) are pleased to announce that there is funding to support up to 7 Teacher Resident candidates to obtain their special education credential. HCOE is funding this residency program to help our districts to proactively address the projected teacher shortage across Humboldt County.

Each candidate will receive \$13,000 to cover costs associated with obtaining their special education credential via Cal Poly Humboldt's Education Specialist Credential Program. Such costs include tuition, fees, books and assessment costs.

There are additional funds to support district selected mentor teachers who will provide valuable support and guidance to eligible residency candidates.

The funding for the Teacher Residency is provided for a cohort of residents for the 2025/26 school year. The sponsored candidate will serve in a district for a period of at least four school years within the next five years, which may begin with the school year after the candidate successfully completes the initial year of preparation and obtains a preliminary teaching credential. A candidate who fails to complete the period of placement shall reimburse HCOE the amount of funding that was invested in the candidate's residency training.

### **What this means for participating districts:**

- This is an exciting way to "grow your own" special education teachers.
- You have the opportunity to identify current employees such as special education aides or others who you believe are ready for the challenge.
- The grant requires a commitment of teaching for four years within the next five years after obtaining the credential so you can count on a dependable work-force.
- The district will need to identify an "experienced mentor teacher" for each eligible candidate who has at least three years of teaching experience and a clear credential authorizing instruction of special education, has a record of successful teaching, and who agrees to receive specific mentor training. There will be compensation for each mentor teacher.
- District agrees to a commitment to offer priority employment teaching opportunities, if possible, for four years beyond obtaining the credential.

### **Next steps:**

1. Please meet with members of your school site(s) to determine if there is a clear need for special education residents within your district next year.
2. If, so, please identify the specific sites and number of "Teacher Residents" you would like to secure for next year.
3. Please identify prospective "Teacher Residents" and encourage them to apply for eligibility. It is possible that if you have need, but do not have individuals who you believe may be a good fit, HCOE may be able to assist in finding some matches of other interested candidates.

For more information, please contact Sheila Rocker Heppe, Ed.D. at the Humboldt County Office of Education at (707) 441-3912 or at [srockerheppe@hcoe.org](mailto:srockerheppe@hcoe.org).