

FISCAL REPORT

PUBLIC EDUCATION'S POINT OF REFERENCE FOR MAKING EDUCATED DECISIONS

2023_24 ECP Program Reimbursement Applications



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The Special Education Extraordinary Cost Pool (ECP) program provides reimbursement to Special Education Local Plan Areas (SELPAs) for the extraordinary costs of local educational agency (LEA) student placements in nonpublic, nonsectarian schools (NPSs) and special education-related services for pupils residing in licensed children's institutions (LCI). As part of the \$20 million ECP available to all SELPAs, necessary small SELPAs (NSSs) can apply for reimbursement for certain ECP mental health (ECPMH) and residential service costs.

The ECP reimburses SELPAs for excess costs above the 2023-24 annual threshold of \$97,944.15 for eligible placements and services provided during the 2023-24 school year. The threshold calculation for NSSs, which is slightly different, can be found at the [NSS ECPMH web page](#). The ECP first prioritizes funding NSS mental health service claims and uses the remaining funds for eligible NPS/LCI placement reimbursements for all SELPAs. When the total reimbursable amount exceeds the appropriation, all claims are prorated. In 2022-23, ECP reimbursements were prorated at 62.5% of submitted claims. For ECP funding details, refer to the [ECP web page](#) and the [ECP Funding Profile](#).

Allowable costs under the ECP consist of:

- NPS tuition and services
- NPS mental health services, including out-of-home residential services, for NSSs
- Transportation (when provided by private companies and/or NPSs)

Costs which historically have not been approved by the California Department of Education (CDE):

- Non-NSS residential care, room and board, or mental health services
- Parent reimbursements related to travel, such as per diem or food
- Legal costs or reimbursement to parents under settlement agreement
- Transportation provided by an LEA, county office, or a joint powers agency
- Nonpublic agency service costs
- Costs for placement and services to pupils outside the age group of 3-21

Submission is completed via the Principal Apportionment Data Collection (PADC) web application and SELPAs must collect a printout of each ECP claim report (printed record of the data entry screen) and redacted copies of paid invoices to support the claim with the assigned student record number clearly labeled on all documents. In August 2024, the CDE released a new [Supplemental Form](#), to assist in tracking eligible expenditures for data entry into the PADC, and this form is recommended as part of the supporting documentation for each claim.

SELPAs and LEAs are encouraged to begin the application process early, checking the PADC to ensure each NPS has an appropriate California School Directory code, and collating the required documentation to facilitate timely submission of the PADC forms and the backup documentation to the CDE by October 31, 2024.