

College Course Guidelines

Title IIA provides federal funds to help staff meet the “highly qualified” definition required through “No Child Left Behind (NCLB). These funds can be used for professional development. The following guidelines will be followed by Parker Unified School District in regards to staff professional development stipends for college courses:

****All course stipends are contingent on the approval of a course plan and the availability of grant monies (actual number of course approvals may vary each year).***

1. **Priority #1**

Teachers who do not have standard certification in the area in which they are teaching.

Examples:

- *A teacher (without special ed. certification) who is teaching special education in the district.*
- *A new teacher who needs to complete classes for Arizona teacher/subject certification (does not include SEI or Arizona Constitution courses).*

3. **Priority #2**

Teachers who are pursuing certification in a new area that is beneficial to the district.

Category 1:

- *A teacher seeking a reading/math endorsement.*
- *A teacher seeking a Masters in Administration (Educational Leadership).*
- *A teacher seeking an administrative certificate (principal or superintendent).*
- *A teacher seeking a Masters in Speech/Language Pathology*
- *A teacher seeking a Gifted endorsement (to coordinate the district gifted program).*
- *A teacher seeking a Driver’s Ed. endorsement (to teach the driver’s ed. course at PHS).*

Category 2:

- *A teacher seeking a Masters in Education or in a specific subject (i.e., English, Math, Science, Social Studies, Music/Arts)*
- *A teacher seeking an EL endorsement.*
- *A teacher seeking a gifted endorsement.*

4. The district will determine the number of courses available for the year based on the federal grant allocations. Courses will be approved based on district priority (see above).
5. All staff must be preapproved for courses (*Course Plan*) in order to be eligible for a professional development stipend and must follow the district procedures (*See Procedures for Professional Development Stipend Through College Coursework*). Course stipend for completion of a continuing education course not at a state university is set at \$500 for a three-credit course. Course stipend for completion of a state university course is set at \$900 for a three-credit course.
6. **Staff who are taking courses during the time frame of January 1 - June 30 must sign a contract for the next school year if they wish to receive a stipend. If staff members receive a stipend for a course(s) during January 1 - June 30 and do not sign a contract, they will be required to pay back to the district the stipend monies.**