

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
200 Administration and Operations

237 Educational Support Professional of the Year

1.0 Purpose

The purpose of this regulation is to establish policies and procedures by which Educational Support Professional of the Year award funds may be used by the designated recipient pursuant to 14 **Del.C.** §8906D.

2.0 Definitions

The words and terms, when used in this regulation, shall have the following meaning unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

"Department" means the Delaware Department of Education.

"Educational Support Professional of the Year Award Fund" means a \$5,000 set aside fund within the budget of the Department of Education for the award recipient to make withdrawals from as necessary to serve educational purposes and objectives as described in 14 **Del.C.** §8906D.

"Educational Support Professional of the Year Award Recipient" or **"Recipient"** means a school employee whose position is instructional in nature or who provides other direct or indirect services to students and their parents such as paraprofessionals, instructional aides, custodial staff, secretaries, nutritional staff and school bus drivers, who is recognized for their outstanding service as described in 14 **Del.C.** §8903D. This designation is given at both the local school district and at the statewide level.

26 DE Reg. 389 (11/01/22)

3.0 Funding

- 3.1 The Educational Support Professional of the Year Award Fund, in the amount of \$5,000, shall be set aside within the budget of the Department to be used for the statewide Educational Support Professional of the Year Award Recipient's exclusive assignment and disbursement.
- 3.2 The Educational Support Professional of the Year Award Recipient shall not directly receive the funds, but may make withdrawals solely for educational purposes and to benefit students. No amount of such award shall be used for the personal benefit of the award recipient; however, in the use of such funds for educational purposes, the Recipient may be an indirect or incidental beneficiary as educational support professional of the benefited pupils.
- 3.3 In order to withdraw funds, the Recipient shall present to the superintendent of the local school district a plan for utilization of the award in order to avoid wasteful duplication of materials or violation of school district policy.
- 3.4 Possible use of funds includes, but is not limited to:
 - 3.4.1 Purchase of non-consumable materials and supplies (library books, audio/visual equipment, computer equipment, etc.);
 - 3.4.2 Purchase of otherwise consumable materials that are used by students (paper, notebooks, binders, pencils, etc.);
 - 3.4.3 Employment of performers or consultants (musical group, author, poet or other subject matter expert);
 - 3.4.4 Student-centered professional development for building level Educational Support Professionals; or
 - 3.4.5 Reimbursements to the recipient, not to exceed \$500, for personal expenses.
- 3.5 Materials, equipment or other items purchased with such funds shall be the property of the local school district in which the recipient is employed at the time of expenditure.
- 3.6 Invoices, purchase orders or personal reimbursement forms related to withdrawals from the Educational Support Professional of the Year Award Fund shall be retained by the local school district and shall be available for inspection as public records and subject to regular audit by the State Auditor of Accounts.

22 DE Reg. 937 (05/01/19)

26 DE Reg. 389 (11/01/22)