Rural and Underserved Educator Incentive Program (RUEIP) FAQ

General Information

What is my Idaho Education Unique Identifier (EDUID), and where can I find it?

The EDUID is a 9-digit number assigned to individuals associated with education programs in Idaho. It is required for both application and annual verification.

You can obtain your EDUID from:

- Your district office, HR, or business manager
- Your site administrator
- The back of your teaching certificate

Eligibility

Am I eligible to apply for RUEIP?

You may be eligible if you:

- Work full-time (1.0 FTE) as an instructional or pupil service staff member
- Hold a standard renewable teaching certificate
- Are employed at a qualifying rural or Title I school
- Have at least $1,000 in federal student loan debt (not in default) OR at least $1,000 in eligible educational expenses

What if I have a contract but have not started yet?

You may apply if you have a **signed contract for the upcoming school year** with an eligible school. Final eligibility is subject to verification of employment once your position begins.

How do I know if my school is Title I or rural (remote, distant, or fringe)?

A school qualifies if it meets **at least one** of the following:

- **Title I School:** Eligible for funding under Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act
- **Rural School:**
  - Identified as rural (remote, distant, or fringe) using National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) classifications, or
  - Located within a qualifying rural district under Idaho Code § 33-319

You can confirm eligibility by:

- Contacting your school or district administration
- Reviewing State Board of Education resources or published eligibility lists
- Contacting the program coordinator for assistance

Loans and Payments

What student loans are eligible?

Only **federal student loans** qualify. Payments cannot be made toward private loans.

Common eligible federal loan servicers include:

- Aidvantage
- American Education Services
- Aspire Servicing Center
- ECSI (Perkins Loans)
- EdFinancial
- MOHELA
- Navient
- Nelnet
- Oklahoma Student Loan Authority
- Sloan

Can I be reimbursed for payments I already made to my loan provider?

No. Payments are made **directly to your federal loan servicer**. Reimbursement for past payments is not allowed.

When are payments made?

Loan payments are generally issued first, typically beginning in January.
Reimbursements for eligible educational expenses follow.

Processing times may vary, and it can take **3–4 weeks** for payments to appear in your account.

Can I split my award between loans and educational expenses?

Yes. Loan repayment is prioritized. If your loans are fully repaid or partially covered, remaining funds may be used for eligible educational expenses.

Educational Expenses

What are eligible educational expenses?

Eligible educational expenses are costs that **educate the educator** and directly support professional development, certification, or advancement.

What are examples of eligible educational expenses?

Examples include:

- Tuition and course fees
- Laboratory fees
- Required course equipment
- Books and instructional supplies
- Career technical certifications
- Professional development courses or conferences (including travel and lodging when appropriate)
- Transcript or transcription fees

Are there other appropriate expenses that may qualify?

Yes. Additional eligible expenses may include:

- Course-related expenses such as books or required supplies
- Fees associated with certification or coursework
- Required equipment specific to course participation

If you are unsure whether an expense qualifies, it is recommended to **contact the program coordinator before making the purchase**.

What expenses are NOT eligible?

Non-eligible expenses include:

- Classroom supplies or materials for students
- Furniture or equipment (desks, chairs, smartboards, appliances)
- Personal items (clothing, phones, accessories)
- Internet or general living expenses

Eligible expenses must benefit the educator—not the classroom or personal convenience.

What documentation is required for reimbursement?

To request reimbursement, you must submit:

- A completed W-9 form
- Receipt Verification Tracker
- Itemized receipts (must include name, date, amount, and description)

Additional documentation (such as a bank statement) may be required.

All expenses must have been incurred **after July 1, 2022**.

Program Participation

Can I apply to a new cohort after completing my four years in the program?

No. The Rural and Underserved Educator Incentive Program provides support for up to four years within a single cohort. Once an educator has completed the four-year award period, they are not eligible to apply for a new cohort.

If I no longer have student loans, can I still participate?

Yes. You may still receive your award through eligible educational expense reimbursement. If you do not have expenses in a given year, you may remain in your cohort for future eligibility.

Do I have to reapply each year?

No. Once accepted, you remain in your cohort for up to four years, provided you meet eligibility requirements and complete annual verification.

What happens if I leave my cohort?

Participants remain in their original cohort. If you are not eligible in a given year, you may regain eligibility in a future year within the same cohort.

If you were not accepted into a cohort, you may apply again in a future year.

If I leave my cohort, does someone else take my place?

No. Cohort positions are fixed once awarded and are not reassigned.

What happens if I switch schools?

You may remain eligible if your new school also meets rural or Title I eligibility requirements. Contact the program coordinator to confirm eligibility.

Can I receive funding if I switch to part-time?

No. You must be employed full-time (1.0 FTE) to receive funding. However, you may remain in your cohort and regain eligibility if you return to full-time status.

What verification is required each year?

Each year you must verify that you:

- Remain employed at an eligible school
- Maintain a valid teaching certificate
- Meet loan or expense requirements

Additional Information

How long do I have to request reimbursement for expenses?

Eligible educational expenses are generally reimbursed through **May of the award year**, provided all requirements are met.

Does this award affect my taxes?

The State Board of Education does not provide tax guidance. Please consult a tax professional for advice.