

# The ECS Grant Payment Schedule

## When Do Districts Get Their Funds?

School districts don't receive all of their ECS funding at one time. Instead, they receive their funding in 3 parts throughout the year.

October  
**25%**  
of total grant

January  
**25%**  
of total grant

April  
**all the rest  
of the grant**

The October and January payments are based on enrollment data from **two school years ago**.

Ex: If the grant is for the **2025-26 school year**, then the enrollment data that's used for October and January payments is from the **2023-24 school year**.

This April payment is calculated using the **previous school year** and is **adjusted** to reflect any enrollment differences from last school year and two school years ago.

### Let's walk through what this means:

A school district **enrolled 3,000 students during the 2023-24 school year**.

Based on its enrollment, student needs, and town wealth, **the district's ECS grant for the 2025-26 school year is \$20 million**.

This means the district's **October** and **January** payments will be **\$5 million each**.

This leaves **\$10 million** remaining for the district's **April** payment.

However, **during the 2024-25 school year, the number of students enrolled in the district increased as did their needs**.

As a result, the **district's total ECS grant increased by \$2 million** to \$22 million.

The district's **April payment** is adjusted to reflect this difference and **will now be \$12 million**.

## Additional Considerations

### Excess Cost Funds

Excess Cost grants provided to districts use data from the end of the previous school year. If a district's needs change from year to year, adjustments are made, as part of the district's April ECS payment, to the total Excess Cost grant the district receives. For example, if a district received a higher Excess Cost grant than it should have in 2024, the district's ECS payment in April 2025 would be reduced by the amount the district's Excess Cost grant was overfunded in 2024.

### Alliance District Funding

If a district is an Alliance District, a portion of its ECS grant will be withheld. The district will receive the withheld money, also known as Alliance District funding, after it submits an approved plan describing how the district intends to spend the funds.