

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 2023-24 school year, then the enrollment data that's used for October and January payments is from the 2021-22 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 2021-22 school year.

Based on its enrollment, student needs, and town wealth, the district's ECS grant for the 2023-24 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 2022-23 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 2022, the district's ECS payment in April 2023 would be reduced by the amount the district's Excess Cost grant was overfunded in 2022.

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.