



BIBB COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Dr. Curtis L. Jones, Superintendent

INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

TO: Bibb County Board of Education
FROM: Sharon Roberts, Chief Financial Officer
SUBJECT: Supplemental Payments for Pre-K Lead and Assistant Teachers

Summary

The Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) will pay two POWER (Providing Our Workforce Essential Recognition) payments of \$1,000 for each full-time Pre-K Lead and Assistant Teachers employed by the Bibb County School District.

Background

The purpose of the POWER payment is to “recognize the dedication and hard work shown during the COVID-19 pandemic. The early learning workforce always deserves recognition for the work they perform, but especially with the critical role they have played for the nearly two years of the pandemic. The dedication and passion of this workforce for children and their families is really what’s unprecedented.” (DECAL Commissioner Amy M. Jacobs)

Currently, the Bibb County School District employs 40 full-time Pre-K Lead Teachers and 40 Assistant Teachers who are eligible for this supplemental payment. DECAL will process the first supplemental payment by January 31, 2022, and the second payment by April 30, 2022. Bibb County Pre-K Lead and Assistant Teachers will receive the first payment in February 2022 and the second payment in May 2022.

Teacher Supplemental Payment FAQ for Local School Systems

What is the supplemental payment amount to be paid to local school systems for each Georgia's Pre-K Lead and Assistant Teacher? DECAL will pay two POWER payments of \$1,000 for each eligible Georgia's Pre-K Lead and Assistant Teacher employed by a local school system.

What are the eligibility requirements to receive the supplemental payment for Georgia's Pre-K Lead and Assistant Teachers? To be eligible, the lead or assistant teacher must be a full-time employee. Roster data will be pulled prior to each payment and the payment will be based on the teacher data as of that date. If you have questions about lead or assistant teacher reporting on your roster, please email panda.teachers@dec.al.ga.gov.

Will DECAL distribute any funding for withholdings? GaDOE is paying school systems \$1,014.50 for each employee. The additional \$14.50 is intended to cover the 1.45% FICA withholdings for each employee. DECAL will also pay a total of \$1,014.50 per eligible Georgia's Pre-K Lead and Assistant Teacher. For any other applicable withholdings, you should follow IRS/DOR guidelines and handle in the same manner as the employee supplemental payments for your system's K-12 employees.

Which agency will provide the supplemental payment funding for Georgia's Pre-K Lead and Assistant Teachers employed by a local school system? The Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) will pay the funding directly to local school systems. The payments will be paid through the PANDA system. School systems will be responsible for the distribution of the payments directly to Pre-K employees.

When will school systems receive the supplemental payments? DECAL anticipates processing the first supplemental payment by January 31, 2022 and the second payment by April 30, 2022. These funds will be identified as "Lead and Assistant Teacher Supplemental Payment" on your payment advice in PANDA. You will receive a payment notification when each payment is processed.

Will these funds be reconciled at the end of the school year? Yes, these funds will be reconciled in your 2021-2022 Pre-K Year End Reconciliation Report. Supplemental payments should be reported on Line 25 - Special Allotment Funding of the reconciliation report.

What is the funding for the supplemental payment for Georgia's Pre-K Lead and Assistant Teachers? POWER payments are managed under Assistance Listing Number (formerly CDFA) 93.575 Child Care and Developmental Block Grant (CDBG). Funding is provided by the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA) 2021 and American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) 2021.

Do school systems need to apply for the supplemental payments for Georgia's Pre-K teachers? No, school systems do not need to apply. The payments will be distributed directly to school systems through PANDA based on Pre-K roster data.

What account code should school systems use for funding? DECAL received guidance from GDOE Financial Review regarding DECAL's supplemental payments and LUA's accounting treatment. Please refer to Fund 560, Program Code 4152, Revenue Source 4535. A link to the Chart of Accounts is below:
<https://www.gadoe.org/Finance-and-Business-Operations/Financial-Review/Pages/LUA-Chart-of-Accounts.aspx>

My school system is also a Head Start provider, Early Head Start provider or licensed child care provider. Are those employees eligible for a supplemental payment? If your school system is also a Head Start, Early Head Start, or licensed child care provider, you will need to submit an application in order for any additional

eligible early learning staff (other than Georgia's Pre-K) to receive the supplemental payment. The application will open for the first 2022 payment in January 2022. The application for the second payment will open in June 2022. For more information, review the [FAQ](#) document on the DECAL website.

Can the funds be used for another purpose?

No. Funds must be spent for the intended purpose. POWER supplemental payments not paid to the Pre-K lead or assistant teacher must be returned to DECAL through the 2021-2022 Pre-K Year-End Reconciliation process.

Should the funds be issued during the current fiscal year, or could systems provide the payments in FY23?

The funding must be provided to teachers within the current fiscal year by June 30, 2022. Funding will be reconciled in the 2021-2022 Pre-K Year-End Reconciliation Report.

Are substitute teachers eligible for the bonus? Short-term substitutes are not eligible for the bonus' however, long-term substitutes are eligible. Class rosters with Multiple Substitutes Used marked for the lead and/or assistant teacher will not receive a payment for the position indicating "multiple substitutes used."