



Alabama Board of Athletic Trainers

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www.athletictrainers.alabama.gov

Athletic Trainer Secondary School Incentive Program Information

The Alabama Athletic Trainer Secondary School Incentive Program provides grants to local boards of education to incentivize the recruitment and retention of athletic trainers at rural secondary schools and Title I secondary schools. The program is designed to support athletic trainers who provide an average of at least 25 hours of athletic training services per week to eligible schools. The grants are capped at \$7,500 per school year and are awarded annually. The program is subject to the availability of funds and is administered by the Alabama Board of Athletic Trainers in conjunction with the Department of Education. The grant will be paid directly to the school district which will be responsible for distributing the funds to the AT(s) selected by the Board near the end of the school year. Multiple grants may be awarded to the same school district, but only one stipend per school. If a school has more than one eligible AT, the stipend may be split among the qualified applicants. To be eligible for this incentive:

- The AT must work at a *rural secondary school*. Rural is defined by the legislation (ACT 2023-341) that created this grant as a school not located within an urbanized area of more than 50,000 people.
- Secondary school is defined as any rural, 1A, 2A, 3A, or Title I schools providing education to students in sixth through twelfth grade. This term includes middle schools and high schools.
- The AT must work an average of 25 hours per week during the 2025-2026 academic school year.
- If the AT works an average of 25 hours at more than one eligible school in the same school district, the hours may be combined, i.e. the AT works at an eligible high school *and* an eligible feeder middle or junior high school.*
- The School Superintendent must sign an attestations that the school meets the requirements for the grant as outlined in Act 2023-341.
- The AT must sign an attestation that he/she meets the requirements of the incentive program as outlined in Act 2023-341.
- A completed signed grant application must be submitted, along with the attestation(s), no later than **May 15, 2026**, regarding hours worked during the prior school year.
- Priority will be given based upon AHSAA classification. All 1As will be awarded before 2As, 2As will be awarded before 3As, 3As will all be awarded before Title I. Then, 4As, 5As, etc. will be awarded accordingly.
- Priority for applications received from schools with the same classification will be based on the date the complete application packet is received by the Board.
- The grants awarded are limited by the funds allocated to the Board for this program.

- Should the Board receive more eligible AT applications than funds available for the full stipend amount of \$7500, the Board may reduce the amount of the stipend to reach more eligible ATs.
- The grant will be paid directly to the local board of education, which will be responsible for distributing the funds to the AT(s) selected by the Board near the end of the 2025-2026 school year. The stipend to AT is subject to applicable taxes.
- Multiple grants may be awarded to the same local board of education.
- Only one stipend can be awarded per school.
- If a particular school has more than one eligible AT, the stipend may be split.
- Please see our website www.athletictrainers.alabama.gov for required forms and more information.
- Questions and completed grant application packages may be emailed in PDF format to incentive@abat.alabama.gov.
- All submitted applications will receive a receipt of confirmation. Should an issue arise with your application, this email will be required to prove submission of application.

* Middle Schools that employ Athletic Trainers will be classified by their feeder High School Classification.

The Board is excited and proud of this incentive program to promote Athletic Trainers in the State. To secure and increase future funding, eligible schools and classifications, please contact your state legislator.

Applications will be available on the Board's website on April 1, 2026.