

**Teacher Quality Funds  
Frequently Asked Questions**

**1. How might I use Teacher Quality (TQ) funds?**

The law allows for the following use of funds - salaries beyond the normal negotiated agreement, substitute teachers, professional development (PD) materials and speakers, and PD content.

Examples of how districts are using professional development funding include:

<b>Examples of professional learning funded through TQ</b>	<b>Examples of professional learning <i>not</i> funded through TQ</b>
Teacher collaborative meeting time to engage in collective learning	Teacher planning time that does not involve new learning
Developing lessons that support and extend their learning from professional development experiences	Regular lesson planning
Study and apply the content of the Iowa Core, learning progressions and assessments to revise curricular units	Book Study (cannot be paid for time spent to read and must involve application of new learning)
Hire substitutes to create release time for teachers to observe in each other's classrooms (peer coaching) and/or to attend professional learning	
Learning Team - Application of new learning	
Review and revise curriculum	
Conference attendance that supports the IPDP, ACP, or strategic action plan	
Purchase content, curriculum, and/or professional development books to support new professional learning	

**2. How do I access TQ funds?**

To access TQ funds, an individual must complete the required Teacher Quality Professional Development Request form. The individual request must be tied to building goals or directly related to the individual improvement plan. Building administrator approval is required. The request would be approved before the additional hours are begun.

The Building Plan option is for building level work only. These funds are allocated through the

building administrator to support particular projects that support the Building Attendance Center Plan.

The District Plan option is for district wide needs only.

**3. How many hours may an individual teacher access?**

The number of hours available for access by individual teachers is based on the yearly allocation and available funds. For this school year, the allocation will be 12 hours.

**4. Does what we do need to be “researched-based”?**

Yes. Senate File 277 does state that all professional development plans, including district, attendance center, and individual plans, must follow the Iowa Professional Development Model as outlined in Iowa Code Chapter 284.6. Per Iowa Code the professional learning must contain research-based instructional strategies aligned with the school district’s student achievement needs and the long-range improvement goals established by the district.

**5. Do teachers have to attend professional learning when it is held beyond the contract day?**

No. Teachers cannot be required to attend PD when it is beyond the work day as per the master contract.

**6. What is the appeals process when TQ funds are denied?**

If a request is denied, there is a place on the TQ forms to explain why the request was denied. The denial of a request should come no later than two weeks following receipt of the initial request. Please forward any refusals to Dr. Stevenson and the TQ Committee will review the denial.

**7. What is the difference between a learning team and book study?**

Using the action research process, a learning team determines a need, sets a goal, studies possible solutions, implements the solutions, and monitors the results.

A book study includes the reading and study of new material with no expectation of implementation.

**8. How many hours of TQ funds may a teacher request from the building funds?**

Teachers may request a total of 12 hours.