

Paid and/or Funded Professional Development Opportunities

Updated and verified October 7, 2026

Upcoming deadlines (as of October 7, 2026)

Program	Deadline	Status
Catherine Loughlin Endowed Fund	October 31, 2026	Open now
Albert Einstein Fellowship (2027–28)	November 5, 2026, 8 p.m. ET	Open now
AFRL Scholars (Summer 2027)	Opens October 12, 2026; closes January 11, 2027	Opens next week
Fund for Teachers (2027)	January 21, 2027, 5 p.m. Central	Open now
Research Experiences for Teachers	Varies by site (usually winter–spring)	Check each site

Catherine Loughlin Endowed Fund for the Individual Study of Teaching

Site:	https://coehs.unm.edu/students/scholarships/loughlin.html
Deadline:	Applications accepted September 1 – October 31, 2026
Timeline:	Flexible – scheduled through the teacher’s proposal. Recipients complete their activity and present what they learned to the UNM College of Education & Human Sciences Scholarship Committee.
Overview:	An independent study grant that helps Teacher Scholars grow in the practice of their profession by studying their own teaching through professional development opportunities. It is not meant for becoming a teacher or for degrees toward initial or extended licensure.
Funding:	Up to \$2,391
Eligibility:	Current licensed/practicing teacher in a New Mexico PK-12 public or private school who is not currently pursuing a college or community college degree. Priority goes to mentor/cooperating teachers.
How to apply:	Email coeship@unm.edu with a cover page, résumé, proof of teaching license, letter of intent, detailed activity plan and budget, principal recommendation and transcripts.

What changed

- Funding is now up to \$2,391 (was up to \$5,000).
- Deadline is now an application window of September 1 – October 31 (was “September 1st”).
- Website moved from coe.unm.edu to coehs.unm.edu (the College is now Education & Human Sciences).
- Added the mentor/cooperating teacher priority, the presentation requirement and the application checklist.

Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellowship (AEF) Program

Site:	https://science.osti.gov/wdts/einstein
Deadline:	November 5, 2026 at 8:00 p.m. ET (application opened August 3, 2026, for the 2027–2028 cohort)
Timeline:	11 months in Washington, DC, beginning in late summer
Overview:	Accomplished K-12 STEM educators serve in the national education arena, spending eleven months in a Federal agency or U.S. Congressional office and applying their classroom experience to national education programs and policy. Recent sponsoring agencies include the Department of Energy, Department of War, Library of Congress and U.S. Geological Survey.
Funding:	Monthly living stipend of \$8,200, plus health insurance assistance (up to \$550/month individual or \$1,300/month family), up to \$1,000 for professional development, up to \$5,000 for travel, and up to \$3,500 for moving costs.
Eligibility:	U.S. citizen by the application deadline; at least five complete years of full-time classroom teaching, including at least five of the last seven years teaching a STEM discipline in a public or private K-12 school; currently employed full-time in a U.S. school or district; a letter from a district official; and able to take an 11-month leave of absence. Past Fellows may not reapply, and applicants may apply at most three times in six years.

What changed

- Stipend is now \$8,200 per month (was \$7,500). Added the specific additional benefits.
- Exact 2027–2028 deadline added: November 5, 2026 (was “mid October”).
- Eligibility expanded to the full current requirements (was “plus others”).

Fund for Teachers

Site:	https://www.fundforteachers.org/
Deadline:	2027 application opened October 1, 2026 and closes January 21, 2027 at 5:00 p.m. Central
Timeline:	Summer 2027 – fellowships take place between the last day of school in spring and the first day of school in fall; all expenses must be completed by September 2, 2027.
Overview:	Fund for Teachers invests in teachers’ self-designed professional learning to support student success, enrich their own practice, and strengthen their schools and communities.
Funding:	Up to \$5,000 per individual or \$10,000 per team. Recipients receive 90% at award and 10% after completing post-fellowship requirements.
Eligibility:	Full-time preK-12 teacher who spends at least 50% of the time directly teaching students; returning to a classroom the following school year; and at least 3 years of teaching experience by the end of the school year. Previous recipients must wait five years to reapply.
Not funded:	Student travel, degree completion or university credit hours, district professional development, substitute pay, stipends, and materials-only projects. Applications substantially generated by AI are not considered.

What changed

- Deadline updated to January 21, 2027 (was January 30). Timeline corrected to summer only (was “anytime”).
- Added the five-year wait for past recipients, the list of what is not funded, and the AI rule.
- Funding amounts confirmed unchanged. Link updated to https.

Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) Scholars Program

Site:	https://afrlscholars.usra.edu/
Deadline:	Summer 2027 applications open October 12, 2026 and close January 11, 2027 at 11:59 p.m. Central
Timeline:	Summer research session at an AFRL site (including Kirtland AFB, NM); full-time, 40 hours per week. Check the site for 2027 session dates and length.
Overview:	Participants gain hands-on experience working with full-time AFRL scientists and engineers on cutting-edge research and contribute to research-based projects.
Funding:	Professional educators receive a stipend equal to GS-11 Step 1: \$1,431.20 per week (standard rate; some locations pay more).
Eligibility:	U.S. citizen by the application deadline (permanent residents are not eligible); must pass a background check, which may lead to a Secret clearance; available full time; arranges own transportation. Professional educators are exempt from the student enrollment requirement.

What changed

- Weekly stipend for educators is now \$1,431.20 (was \$1,173.20).
- Exact application window added: October 12, 2026 – January 11, 2027 (was “January”).
- Not re-verified: the 2- to 12-week negotiated length for educators, and whether the educator track is limited to public school teachers. The current site mentions “professional educators” but does not describe a separate teacher track; confirm with the program.

Research Experiences for Teachers (RET)

Site:	No single site. Search “Research Experiences for Teachers” plus a subject and location, or browse the K-12 educator listings at Pathways to Science (K-12 Educators) . • https://www.pathwaystoscience.org
Deadline:	Varies by RET site; most summer programs take applications in winter and spring.
Timeline:	Usually summer, about 4–12 weeks depending on the site, often with academic-year follow-up.
Overview:	Paid professional development in which K-12 STEM teachers (and at some sites, community college faculty) do research with university scientists and engineers, then bring it back to their classrooms. Each university’s RET is different because it is funded by its own National Science Foundation (NSF) grant.
Funding:	Varies by site; most pay a stipend and some add funds for classroom materials or travel.
Eligibility:	Varies by site (often in-service teachers within commuting distance; some are limited to certain subjects or grade levels).

What changed

- Removed the outdated “2020” search tip.
- Pathways to Science link checked — it still works and currently lists 28 K-12 educator programs, including several RETs.
- Not re-verified: the \$500–\$1,200 per week stipend range — stipends are set by each site, so check the individual program.