Due to the COVID-19 crisis, educators across the state had to move their instruction to a remote distance learning format. In the education community, it has been widely acknowledged that this poses a significant challenge for special education teachers and specialists who work with individuals with disabilities and their families. Special educators cannot simply send home a work schedule, assignments, and instructional videos. Many of their students rely on additional supports from para-educators, service providers, and behavior specialists; they require hands-on materials, adapted activities, and assistive technology for their learning. Special educators are using all of their creativity and resources to develop materials to support their students, often at personal expense.

The Department of Special Education, Student Teacher Fund: Distance Learning Supplies has been established to support SF State students who are enrolled in a special education credential program and currently working in the field as a special education teacher, student teacher/intern, or practicum student. They will be able to apply for up to $200 reimbursement for materials that were purchased to design and implement accessible distance learning for their students. This could include the purchase of assistive technology devices, curriculum boxes, printers, paper, ink, cartridges, adapted books, visual schedules, educational software licenses, sensory toys, laminating machines, mobility devices, braille materials, educational memberships and appropriate curriculum units, etc. All purchases must have been made from March 18, 2020 to May 21, 2020, and an original itemized receipt is required for reimbursement. All receipts must be dated with a purchase date between March 18, 2020 to May 21, 2020, regardless of time of shipping.

Eligible students should submit an application with a scanned copy of an itemized receipt to the Department of Special Education Chairperson, Dr. Yvonne Bui, ybui@sfsu.edu before May 21, 2020. Late applications will not be accepted. A department committee, consisting of the Department of Special Education chairperson and two special education faculty members will review the requests and ensure an equitable distribution of funds. The opportunity to apply for this fund will be announced on the Department of Special Education website at sped.sfsu.edu.