



UNIFOR

Education | Service de l'éducation

2026 Local Union Reimbursement Guidelines for Area Schools

** Effective January 1st, 2026*

The goal of Area Schools is to meet members in their home community, where they live and work (either in-person or online). **Travel outside of a members' home community is not covered by the National Area School Program**, unless for special circumstances. In this case, a Local President can reach out to the department, in advance of registration for pre-approval. Please see details below.

REIMBURSEMENT PROCESS: ACCOUNTING

Locals pay for their members up front and are reimbursed afterwards by the National.

Please send us an invoice with the following information:

- **Local Invoice Number (a unique number specific to the invoice);**
- **Who to make the cheque out to and address to send it to;**
- **The course name;**
- **The course dates;**
- **The course location;**
- **The type of expense (i.e. wages, reimbursement for lunch, mileage, etc.) and how much for each member. Include totals for each item;**
- **Total amount to be reimbursed to local;**
- **All receipts and backup documents. PLEASE NOTE: We only reimburse monies that are paid out by the local. We require proof that the local was charged for lost wages by the employer via report or invoice(s). If the local paid the member(s) directly, please include cheque stub(s), Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) remittance or a report from your local's accounting software.**
- **Please remember that the invoice must be signed;**

Please submit your reimbursement package to education@unifor.org

WHAT WE COVER:

1. In-Person and Online One-Day Courses

There is no cost sharing for wages for one-day in-person and online courses.

The National Union will cover the cost of the meeting room, materials and Discussion Leader for in-person and online courses.

Lunch is reimbursed at a rate of \$20 per member per day for all **IN-PERSON COURSES ONLY.**

2. In-Person Two-Day and Three-Day Courses

The National Union will cover the cost of the meeting room, materials and Discussion Leader.

Wages:

The National Union will cover 50% of the participants lost time for only the days in which the course runs (this equals 2 or 3 full shifts).

Example: 3 days x 8 hours = 24 hours. The National Union cost share 50%, per participant, of this total amount.

Transportation:

Mileage: The National Union will cover 50% of the mileage for the driver from their place of residence to the course location. This amount is paid to the driver only. * Effective January 1st, 2026 at 0.73 per kilometer.

Other Transportation: The National Union will cover 50% of other forms of transportation (public transit, taxis, etc.) from the participant's place of residence to the course location, with receipts.

Parking:

Parking will be reimbursed at 50%, with receipts.

Lunch Reimbursement:

The National Union provides a \$20 daily lunch reimbursement, per member (100%).

Example: \$20 x 3 days = \$60 per member for a 3-day course.

NOTE: Attendance at an Area School class is considered "work". As such, we encourage members to bring their lunch or go out for food within the time provided, as they would do at work.

3. Online Two-Day and Three-Day Courses

Two-day and three-day online courses will follow the same guidelines as two-day and three-day in-person courses but with **no reimbursement for lunch, mileage, other transportation or parking.**

The National Union will cover 50% of the participants lost time for only the days in which the course runs (this equals 2 or 3 full shifts).

Example: 3 days x 8 hours = 24 hours. The National Union cost share 50%, per participant, of this total amount.

PRE-APPROVAL FOR TRAVEL AND ACCOMODATION

In the unlikely event that a member will need to travel outside of their home community to attend a course, a Local President can contact us ahead of registering their member(s) to discuss a 50/50 cost share of per diem, travel (air, rail, ferry, bus, taxi) and accommodation.

For all advanced pre-approvals contact: Robin Fairchild Clennell, Education Director at robin.fairchild@unifor.org

For additional questions, please contact: education@unifor.org