

Background for Presentation: *Details About Board Approval Requirement*

Enrolled House Bill 3198

SECTION 4. Eligibility for grants

(4) An application described in subsection (3) of this section must be presented and approved by the school district board or the governing body of the public charter school at an open meeting following:

- (a) Oral presentation of the application by an administrator of the school district or public charter school to the school district board or the governing body of the public charter school; and
- (b) Opportunity for the public to comment on the application.

Timeline:

- Applications must be submitted by **January 8th, 2024**.
- Application review may begin before board minutes are approved; however, grant agreements cannot be written until board minutes are approved.
- The minutes from Board Approval meeting are due **February 28, 2024**.

Early Literacy Success School District Grant Application

What: Non-competitive, application-based, annual grant-in-aid

Who: School districts and eligible public charter schools that are elementary schools

Why: To support comprehensive early literacy plans that are research-based and culturally responsive

When: Application deadline January 8, 2024

How Much: \$90 million for the 2023-25 biennium funded through the Statewide Education Initiatives Account

Why the Early Literacy Success School District Grant Matters

- Literacy is the foundation for learning.
- "Literacy is inseparable from opportunity, and opportunity is inseparable from freedom. The freedom promised by literacy is freedom from—from ignorance, oppression, poverty—and freedom to—to do new things, make choices, and learn." *Kōichirō Matsuura, former Director-General of UNESCO.*
- Securing an Early Literacy Success School District Grant is the best way for our school district to have the resources necessary to boost and enhance our ability to deliver high-quality literacy instruction and interventions.
 - We can opt to customize how the funds are spent in many ways, and we plan to use the funds to support our staff.
- Through this grant, our students will grow their literacy skills and become stronger readers and writers. This can lead to many benefits, including an increased sense of belonging, improved attendance, and increased graduation rates.

Purpose for Presentation

To share information about the Early Literacy Plan as part of the Early Learning Success School District Grant application, as required by the Early Literacy Success Initiative legislation.

To provide an opportunity for public comment on the application.

To seek board approval for the Early Literacy School District Grant application.

Early Literacy Plan

Our application for the Early Literacy Success School District Grant covers the initial 2023-2025 biennium and was submitted by January 8, 2024.

Allocation

2023-2024: \$41,690.33

2024-2025: \$43,391.97

Early Literacy Program Review

Strengths- phonics based program; easy to use; ERC book club in conjunction; benchmarks through HMH Reading Inventory, Reading Specialist on staff

Areas of Improvement- consistency in volunteer program; ERC book management (sending home weekly); communication with parents about reading practice and progress

Professional Development & Coaching

Annual training provided by staff in the usage of the phonograms and program specifics.

Mentor/teacher observes teaching staff and offers feedback and growth suggestions.

Teachers provide classes to parents on how to use the program at home.

Extended Learning Programs

Reading Clubs in the summer for new students and students identified as needing more reading support.

High dosage tutoring on Wednesdays for students needing explicit instruction.

High-Dosage Tutoring

Reading Specialist provides several specific tutoring sessions each week for students identified as needing explicit instruction.

Tutoring includes phonetic instruction, reading comprehension, and writing.

Research-Aligned Curriculum

ACE uses a structured literacy approach based on the Spalding Method that provides students with the tools to decode higher-level texts, becoming excellent analyzers, writers, and communicators.

The program is effective because it integrates four knowledge domains; reading process, reading development, skill learning, and effective instruction.

The main components of the program involve teaching students phonemes which leads to blending words, spelling instruction, and writing all in a multisensory approach.

Students have access to weekly books sent home to practice the skills for the week. In addition, literature is hand picked to correlate with the history and science instruction of the week so students are drawn into interesting stories to accelerate their reading.

Communication Plan

We will share our Literacy plan via our website, email, and meetings.

Student Growth Assessment

Student's growth is monitored through the three – four benchmark assessments held during the school year.

Growth charts are accessible in many formats and allow for an overview of the entire school, as well as individual and class results.

Matching Funds

ACE will cover the 25% matching funds through the State School Funds.

Inventory

Our Reading Specialist has access to a large variety of materials to provide the support needed for each student.

We subscribe to the HMH Reading Inventory for our benchmarks. Additionally, we use the McCall Crabbs reading comprehension paper tests to validate the online tests.

Budget 2023-2024

The grant funds will be used to pay a portion of the Reading Specialist salary, provide training to staff, and purchase materials.

Budget 2024-2025

The grant funds will be used to pay a portion of the Reading Specialist salary.