



Comprehensive Literacy State Development Subgrant Limited Third Round Eligibility Requirements

General Guidance

Ohio was awarded a supplemental \$2.7 million to expand its \$42 million Comprehensive Literacy State Development subgrant from the U.S. Department of Education to continue its work to improve the language and literacy development of the state's children. Approximately 95 percent of the supplemental award (\$2.565 million) will be distributed directly to local education agencies and early childhood education programs to improve literacy outcomes for children from birth through grade 12 through this grant opportunity.

The one-year supplemental subgrant will focus on implementing model literacy site practices in early childhood education programs, district preschools and elementary, middle and high schools across the state. The proposed model sites will concentrate on implementing practices consistent with *Ohio's Plan to Raise Literacy Achievement*. The partnership between the proposed sites and Ohio Department of Education will allow early childhood education programs, districts, schools and families to improve student literacy and increase educational options available to students who traditionally have been underserved.

To apply for a Comprehensive Literacy State Development subgrant, local education agencies must meet specific eligibility criteria as outlined below.

In addition, all applicants must submit and implement a local literacy plan that:

- Is informed by a comprehensive needs assessment;
- Is aligned with *Ohio's Plan to Raise Literacy Achievement*;
- Includes interventions and practices that are supported by moderate or strong evidence or, in the case where limited research is available, the intervention and practices are supported by promising evidence;
- Includes a plan for professional development; and
- Includes a plan to track learner outcomes consistent with all applicable privacy requirements.

To complete this plan, applicants will be asked to use the local literacy plan [template](#) located on the Department's [website](#).

Please note, the full application will be released in late April 2023. Interested applicants are encouraged to begin the local literacy plan development process as soon as possible to prepare for the application.

Email any questions to ComprehensiveLiteracy@education.ohio.gov.

Regional Preference

The 2020 subgrant process expected to fund one proposed model literacy site for each age/grade band in each of the state's 16 state support team regions, however some regions did not have sufficient qualified applications to award. In this third round, the Department will prioritize subgrant applications from regions that did not receive a subgrant in an age/grade band in the first or second round of the Comprehensive Literacy State Development subgrant competition. Applications from the following regions will be prioritized at the age/grade bands indicated below:



Region	Age/Grade Bands
Region 1	Grades 6-8
Region 4	Birth-K Entry, Grades 6-8, Grades 9-12
Region 6	Birth-K Entry, Grades K-5, Grades 6-8,
Region 12	Birth-K Entry
Region 13	Birth-K Entry
Region 14	Grades K-5, Grades 6-8, Grades 9-12
Region 15	Grades K-5, Grades 6-8, Grades 9-12

Only applications in the designated age/grade bands will be prioritized. For example, an LEA in Region 1 may propose model sites in grades K-5 and grades 6-8, but only the grades 6-8 site will be prioritized.

If the Department is unable to identify a proposed model literacy site for each identified age/grade band within the priority regions, or if additional funds remain after sites have been identified in the priority regions, additional subgrantees may be selected from the most qualified applicants from other state support team regions.

Partnerships (formerly known as consortia)

Applicants may opt to form a partnership with others to collaborate and share resources in the same region. An education partnership is an association of two or more eligible local education agencies pooling resources to share human and material assets and link academic and administrative resources with the objective of participating in the development and execution of a Comprehensive Literacy State Development subgrant. All members of a partnership must meet the eligibility criteria outlined in this document and be assigned to the same state support team region.

Examples of partnerships for this subgrant include:

- An application proposing model sites in multiple eligible entities (for example, site in District B for grades 6-8 and one site in District C for grades 9-12); and
- An application proposing multiple model sites in one or more age bands in more than one eligible entity (for example, a site for grades 6-8 in District A and a site for grades 6-8 in District B).

Eligible Applicants

Subgrant applicants are required to submit applications for funding for services for specific age bands that reflect the individual buildings they are proposing become model sites. The proposed sites will all be working toward full implementation of the practices described in *Ohio’s Plan to Raise Literacy Achievement* but will have different entry points based on their needs. This means that though all sites are working toward a common goal, they will be engaged in different grant-supported activities throughout the year. A common feature across all sites will be engagement with either Ohio’s Peer Coaching Model for Literacy Instruction or Ohio’s Traditional Coaching Model for Literacy Instruction. These models and training to support these models are further described in Ohio’s [grant application](#). As the sites progress through the grant cycle, they will receive individualized performance feedback and be expected to make mid-course corrections to address any implementation barriers.

Birth Through Kindergarten entry applicants

For applicants interested in applying for subgrant funding for a model site that serves children ages birth through kindergarten entry, the following eligibility criteria will be used. For a chartered non-public preschool to be eligible, they must meet the requirements as stated below and outline how they will fulfill the data collection requirements for the Government Performance and Results Act measure for 4-year-olds.



Eligible early childhood programs must be one of the following:

- Ohio Department of Job and Family Services licensed program that is highly rated in Step Up to Quality (3, 4, or 5 stars) or recommended for rating at the three-star level or above on or before June 30, 2020; or
- Ohio Department of Education licensed program that is highly rated in Step Up to Quality (3, 4 or 5 stars) or recommended for rating at the three-star level or above on or before June 30, 2020.

Subgrant award prioritization

In addition to meeting eligibility requirements outlined above, all applicants, including each member of a consortium, for birth to kindergarten entry services must also provide evidence of serving low-income children within their subgrant application. The Department will prioritize programs that serve children birth through kindergarten entry who are from families with income levels at or below 200 percent of the Federal poverty line (as defined by the Office of Management and Budget and revised annually in accordance with section 673(2) of the Community Services Block Grant Act).

Kindergarten-Grade 12 applicants

LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES (LEAS) FOR PUBLIC ELEMENTARY OR SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Eligible subgrant applicants include districts, exempted village school districts, community schools, cooperative education school districts, joint vocational school districts (JVSD) and Educational Service Centers (ESCs). Per federal guidelines, chartered non-public schools are not eligible to apply for a Kindergarten through grade 12 subgrant.

Subgrant award prioritization

The Department will prioritize applicants where at least 50 percent of schools served by the LEA meet the below definitions of “high-need schools” and the proposed model literacy site(s) meet the definition of “high-need school.” See note below for JVSDs and ESCs.

- **Elementary schools:** A “high-need” elementary school is one in which not less than 50 percent of the enrolled students are children who come from low-income families.
- **Middle schools:** A “high-need” middle school is one in which not less than 50 percent of the enrolled students are children who come from low-income families.
- **High schools:** A “high-need” high school is one in which not less than 40 percent of the enrolled students are children who come from low-income families.

Subgrants serving students kindergarten-grade 12 will be prioritized within each region in the following order:

1. At least 50 percent of the schools served by the LEA meet the definition of “high-need school” **and** all proposed model literacy sites meet the definition of “high-need school.”
2. At least 50 percent of the schools served by the LEA meet the definition of “high-need school” but no proposed model literacy sites meet the definition “high-need school.”
3. At least 50 percent of the schools served by the LEA do not meet the definition of “high-need school” but at least one proposed model literacy site meets the definition of “high-need school.”
4. At least 50 percent of the schools served by the LEA do not meet the definition of “high-need school” and no proposed model literacy site meets the definition of “high-need school.”

Please note the following requirements for joint vocational school districts (JVSDs) and Educational Service Centers (ESCs):

- Joint vocational school districts may apply as a subgrantee but to receive priority, the applicants must demonstrate in the application that the home districts for all their students on average meet the priority criteria stated above. In addition, services proposed in the joint vocational school district’s application



must be available to students from all home districts attending the joint vocational school district but not extend beyond the programming offered by the joint vocational school district.

- ESCs may apply for K-12 funding as a part of a consortium of one or more eligible LEAs. The enrollment data from the districts included in the consortia will determine priority standing.
- ESCs that operate a licensed early childhood program and are applying for birth-Kindergarten entry funds should see eligibility criteria for birth through Kindergarten entry grants above.