



Early Literacy Grant (ELG) Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the Early Literacy Grant?

HB 2545 included the Early Literacy Grant program, codified as A.R.S. § 15-249.09, providing support to improve reading skills, literacy and proficiency for students in kindergarten programs and grades one through three. Eligible schools may also use the grant funding for eligible expenses to provide a full-day kindergarten program that is structured to increase reading proficiency. Grants shall be awarded on a three-year cycle to eligible schools. Eligible schools are defined as a public school with at least 90% of its students eligible for free and reduced lunch.

2. How much funding will be allocated under the Early Literacy Grant?

The Arizona Legislature will allocate \$8,000,000 in year one of the ELG and an additional \$12,000,000 during year two of the ELG.

3. How will school allocations be determined?

Allocations to each school will be based on the 100th day ADM count from the 2016-2017 academic year.

4. What is the timeline for the Early Literacy Grant?

- a. **August 29, 2017:** Application opened for eligible schools after approval of the policy by the State Board of Education.
- b. **November 1, 2017:** Applications are due via the online application.
- c. **December 2017:** Applicants will be presented to the State Board of Education for approval.
- d. **January 2018:** It is anticipated that schools will learn of specific award allocations.
- e. **June 1, 2018:** The annual report for Year 1 is due via the website.
- f. **June 1, 2019:** The annual report for Year 2 is due via the website.
- g. **June 1, 2020:** The annual report for Year 3 is due via the website.

5. How is the Early Literacy Grant aligned to Move on When Reading (MOWR)?

Similar to MOWR, the Early Literacy Grant provides support to improve reading skills, literacy and proficiency for students in kindergarten programs and grades one through three. However the Early Literacy Grant does not replace the requirements for MOWR. Eligible schools may also use the grant funding for eligible expenses to provide a full-day kindergarten program that is structured to increase reading proficiency. Funds from the ELG are designed to supplement and not supplant existing funding directed toward early literacy initiatives.

6. How was eligibility determined for participating schools?

Eligible schools are defined as a public school with at least 90% of its students eligible for free and reduced lunch. Eligible schools were determined based upon the claim data from October 2016 as reported to the ADE Health and Nutrition Division by each LEA. This list was cross-referenced with the AzEDS Student Level and Free and Reduced Lunch data from the 2016-2017 school year to ensure all schools were captured.

As it relates to LEAs that operate under Provision 2 and Provision 3 of the National School Lunch Program, LEAs were able to select a grouping of schools to represent a free and reduced lunch percentage for a designated period of time. Part of this requirement was also designed to reduce local paperwork and administrative burden. Because the Early Literacy Grant is a school based award, the eligibility criteria examines individual schools and not the entire LEA. As a result, while an LEA may have a free and reduced lunch percentage of 90% or higher, individual schools within the LEA may not according to the data source listed above.

7. What is Supplement versus Supplant?

Funds made available under the Early Literacy Grant must be used to supplement and not supplant, any other federal, state, or local education funds. An LEA may use ELG funds only to supplement and, to the extent practical, increase the level of funds that would, in the absence of other funding sources, be made available from non-federal sources for the education of students participating in Title I programs. In no case may ELG funds be used to supplant or take the place of funds from non-federal sources. For additional guidance on supplement and supplant, please visit the [Title I website](#).

8. Is there a budget for the award amount to participating schools?

Yes there is a proposed budget which will be completed as part of the initial application. Schools will be asked to complete this budget based on current needs and interventions that are currently in place for K-3 Literacy. By June 1st, each school will submit an Annual Report that will detail the exact expenditures related to the Early Literacy Grant. Eligible schools will input the expended amount across four categories Personnel, Assessment, Instructional Materials, Professional Development, this is in addition to the category of Other.

9. What are district and school responsibilities?

The ELG is a school level award. Schools participating in the ELG must submit an application via the website by November 1, 2017. Participating schools must also submit an annual report containing a summary of the funded activities, information on the school's progress toward achievement goals, specific findings on grant-funded strategies and activities, and the level of effectiveness in improving reading proficiency. The annual report is due by June 1st of each calendar year. Participating schools must also ensure funds are used to supplement and not supplant current activities. As it relates to district responsibilities, each LEA will work with their participating schools to determine the best method for application and implementation of the Early Literacy Grant. **It is the intent of the Early Literacy Grant that all awarded funds reach the approved schools. Indirect costs were not included in the legislation for the Early Literacy Grant.**

10. How can funds from the Early Literacy Grant be used to support Move on When Reading?

Similar to Move on When Reading, the Early Literacy Grant focuses on four categories for the expenditure of funds; *K-3 Staffing*, *K-3 Instructional Materials*, *K-3 Assessment Materials*, and *K-3 Professional Development*. ELG funds are intended to supplement current K-3 literacy interventions or create new K-3 literacy interventions that are evidence-based in nature. They cannot be used to supplant funds already in use. The items below detail more information related to each of the funding categories.

- ***K-3 Instructional Staff***

This can include but is not limited to, literacy coaches, additional teachers, interventionists, and paraprofessionals.

- ***K-3 Instructional Materials***

This can include, but is not limited to, curricula for tiers 1, 2, or 3, manipulatives, texts, technology, and furniture, such as a reading table.

- ***K-3 Assessment Materials***

An example of this would be diagnostics for specific areas of struggle, such as fluency or vocabulary.

- ***Professional Development***

This involves the training of school personnel in best practices for literacy instruction.

Additional information and guidance related to MOWR funding can be found by clicking [here](#).

11. Is carryover of Early Literacy Grant Funds permitted?

Early Literacy Grant funds may carry over. However, all funds must be expended by June 1, 2020.