

Ohio's K-12 Comprehensive Literacy State Development Subgrant Eligibility Requirements

General Guidance

Ohio was awarded a \$60 million Comprehensive Literacy State Development Grant from the U.S. Department of Education to build on ongoing work to improve the language and literacy development of our state's children.

The four-year subgrant will focus on developing and supporting literacy implementation sites in elementary, middle, and high schools across the state. A separate grant will be released in later 2025 for early childhood education programs and district preschools.

The literacy implementation sites will concentrate on implementing practices consistent with *Ohio's Plan to Raise Literacy Achievement* and in alignment with state policies for the science of reading. The grant also will support professional learning and coaching. The partnership between the implementation sites and the Department will allow districts, schools, and families to improve student literacy and increase educational options available to students who have been traditionally underserved.

To apply for a Comprehensive Literacy State Development Subgrant, Local Education Agencies (LEAs) must meet specific eligibility criteria. The criteria are outlined and organized below for grades K-12.

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 comprehensive literacy plan
- Includes interventions and practices that are supported by moderate evidence or strong evidence, where evidence is applicable and available
- Provides for professional development
- Includes a plan to track children's 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 January 2025 but interested applicants are encouraged to begin the local literacy plan development process to prepare for the application.

Send questions to ComprehensiveLiteracy@education.ohio.gov.

Eligible Grades K-12 Applicants

ELIGIBLE LEAS FOR PUBLIC ELEMENTARY OR SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Eligible applicants who can apply for a kindergarten through grade 12 subgrant are LEAs which, for purposes of this subgrant opportunity, are defined as:

- City, local, exempted village, cooperative education, and joint vocational school districts as defined under Chapter 3311 of the Ohio Revised Code;
- Community schools established under Chapter 3314 of the Ohio Revised Code;
- STEM schools established under Chapter 3326 of the Ohio Revised Code;
- Educational service centers as defined under Chapter 3311 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Per federal guidelines, chartered non-public schools are not eligible to apply for a grades K-12 subgrant.

Aligned to federal requirements, the Department will award subgrants—to directly carry out project activities described in its application—to LEAs in which at least 50% of the schools served by the LEA meet the definition of “high-need school”, and at least one proposed Literacy Implementation Site is a “high-need school”, based on the definitions below.

- **Elementary schools:** A “high-need” elementary school is one in which not less than 50% 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% 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% of the enrolled students are children who come from low-income families.
- **Joint vocational school district, STEM schools, Community Schools, Educational Service Centers, and State Supported Organizations:** A “high-need” school is one in which, if less than 50% of the enrolled students served are in grades 9-12, not less than 50% of the enrolled students are children who come from low-income families, or in which, if not less than 50% of the enrolled students served are in grades 9-12, not less than 40% of the enrolled students are children who come from low-income families.

Grades K-12 Subgrant Award Prioritization

The Department will prioritize eligible applicants based on:

- **Proportion of students from low-income families:** the percentage of enrolled students in the LEA who are children from low-income families; and
- **Percentage of students reading or writing below grade level:** the percentage of grades K-2 students and grades 3-12 students who participated in an Ohio State Test of English Language Arts who scored not-track for reading at grade level (grades K-2) or not proficient (grades 3-12) in the 2023-2024 school year.
- **Number of students enrolled in applicant LEA**

Subgrants serving students grades K-5, grade 6-8, and grades 9-12 will be prioritized within each region in the following order:

- **Priority 1:** LEAs with at least 150 enrolled students, in which at least 80% of students are children who come from low-income families and 40% of students read or write below grade level.
- **Priority 2:** LEAs with fewer than 150 students in which at least 40% of students are children who come from low-income families, or LEAs with at least 150 enrolled students in which 40%- 79.9%, of students are children who come from low-income families, in which at least 40% of students read or write below grade level.
- **Priority 3:** LEAs of any enrollment size in which fewer than 40% of students read or write below grade level.

Priority	Enrollment Size*	Percent of Students from Low-income Families**	Percent of Students Reading or Writing Below Grade-Level
Priority 1	150+ students	At least 80%	At least 40%
Priority 2	At least 1 student	At least 40% (LEAs with fewer than 150 students) 40%-79.9% (LEAs with 150+ students)	At least 40%
Priority 3	At least 1 student	N/A	Fewer than 40%

*Data is based on the final reporting of the 2023-2024 school year.

**Students from Low-Income Families are students identified as economically disadvantaged.

Partnership Applications

Each city, local, exempted village, cooperative education or joint vocational school districts, community school, STEM school, and Educational Service Center (ESC) must apply individually. **Partnership applications will not be accepted for this grant opportunity.**