

Striving Readers Comprehensive Literacy (SRCL) Subgrant

Eligibility Requirements

GENERAL GUIDANCE

Ohio was awarded a \$35 million Striving Readers Comprehensive Literacy 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.

Approximately 95 percent of the award will be distributed directly to local districts, community schools and early childhood providers to improve literacy outcomes for children from birth through grade 12. The three-year subgrant will focus on serving the greatest numbers of students living in poverty, students with disabilities, English learners and students identified as having a reading disability.

In order to apply for a Striving Readers Comprehensive Literacy Subgrant, Local Education Agencies (*LEAs*) and non-profit providers of early childhood education must meet specific eligibility criteria. The criteria are outlined and organized below for early childhood (birth to age 5) and kindergarten through grade 12.

In addition, all eligible applicants and all members of a consortium application, 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 (to be released by the Ohio Department of Education by mid-January 2018);
- includes a plan for professional development;
- includes interventions and practices that are ideally supported by moderate or strong evidence, or in the case where limited research is available, the intervention and practices are supported by promising evidence; 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 Reading Achievement Plan and Reading Readiness Plan templates located on the Department's website: <https://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Learning-in-Ohio/Literacy/Reading-Achievement-Plan>.

Please note the full application will be released in January 2018, but interested applicants are encouraged to begin the local literacy plan development process to prepare for the application.

Questions should be sent to strivingreaders@education.ohio.gov.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Subgrant applicants, including consortium applicants, are encouraged to consider submitting applications for comprehensive funding for services birth through grade 12, but applicants may also submit applications for specific grade bands.

CONSORTIA

Applicants are encouraged to form consortia in order to provide services to the greatest number of disadvantaged learners. An education consortium is an association of two or more eligible LEAs 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 an Ohio Striving Readers Comprehensive Literacy subgrant. All members of a consortium must meet the eligibility criteria outlined in this document.

BIRTH THROUGH AGE FIVE

In addition to meeting eligibility requirements outlined below, all applicants, including each member of a consortium, for birth to age 5 services must also provide evidence of prioritizing disadvantaged children within their subgrant application.

For applicants interested in applying for subgrant funding that services children ages birth to five, the following eligibility criteria will be used.

EARLY CHILDHOOD SETTINGS

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, 2018;
- Ohio Department of Education licensed program that is highly rated in Step Up to Quality (3, 4 or 5 stars);
- Ohio Department of Education licensed preschool that is not yet rated in Step Up to Quality* who meets the early childhood education requirements, as outlined in Section 265.10 of House Bill 49, 132nd General Assembly, including all of the following:
 - Meet teacher qualification requirements prescribed by section 3301.311 of the Revised Code which is 50 percent of teachers must have an associate's degree in early childhood education or approved related field and 50 percent of teachers must have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or approved related field;
 - Align curriculum to Ohio's early learning and development standards (birth to kindergarten entry) in all domains of school readiness;
 - Administer the Department's Early Learning Assessment (the assessment is required as part of the Department Early Childhood Education grant program) or administer a comparable assessment to the Early Learning Assessment (i.e., measures academic, social/emotional, and physical development) for preschool aged children if not already funded for the Department's Early Childhood Education grant and thus do not have access to the Early Learning Assessment;
 - Require teachers, except teachers enrolled and working to obtain a degree pursuant to section 3301.311 of the Revised Code, to attend a minimum of twenty hours every two years of professional development as prescribed by the Department;
 - Document and report child progress as prescribed by the Department;
 - Meet and report compliance with Ohio's early learning program standards as prescribed by the Department; and
 - Participate in the Step Up to Quality program established pursuant to section 5104.29 of the Revised Code.

**Note: All Ohio Department of Education-licensed programs not yet rated at a three-star level or higher must apply to be highly-rated (three-, four-, or five-star rated) within 30 days of subgrant award, and must be recommended to be highly-rated. Programs that do not meet this timeline, or those that are unable to become highly-rated, are subject to reduction or reallocation of their funds to another eligible program.*

COMMUNITY SCHOOL PRESCHOOLS

Community school eligible to become licensed as outlined and set forth in Section 265.10 of House Bill 49,132nd General Assembly. Guidance document is available here: <http://education.ohio.gov/getattachment/Topics/Early-Learning/Early-Childhood-Education-Grant/Early-Childhood-Education-Grants-for-Administrator/Community-Schools-Guidance.pdf.aspx>

- A community school established under Chapter 3314. of the Revised Code that is sponsored by a sponsor rated "exemplary" in accordance with section 3314.016 of the Revised Code that offers a child care program in accordance with sections 3301.50 to 3301.59 of the Revised Code that did not receive state funding for Early Childhood Education in the previous fiscal year;
- A community school established under Chapter 3314. of the Revised Code that satisfies all the following criteria:
 - It has received, on its most recent report card, either of the following:
 - If the school offers any of grade levels four through twelve, a grade of "C" or better for the overall value-added progress dimension under division (C)(1)(e) of section 3302.03 of the Revised Code and for the performance index score under division (C)(1)(b) of section 3302.03 of the Revised Code;
 - If the school does not offer a grade level higher than three, a grade of "C" or better for making progress in improving literacy in grades kindergarten through three under division (C)(1)(g) of section 3302.03 of the Revised Code.
 - It offers a child care program in accordance with sections 3301.50 to 3301.59 of the Revised Code.
 - It did not receive state funding for Early Childhood Education in the previous fiscal year.

A SPECIAL NOTE ON CHARTERED NON-PUBLIC PRESCHOOLS

Per federal guidelines, in order for a chartered non-public preschool to be eligible, they must be a non-profit provider of early childhood education and meet requirements as stated above under the Department's licensed providers within the application, the charter non-public preschool must outline how they will fulfill the data collection requirements for the Government Performance and Results Act measure for 4-year-olds.

GRADES K-12 APPLICANTS

Applicants for funding for services to students in grades K through grade 12 must meet the following criteria.

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, and Educational Service Centers (ESCs).

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

- Joint vocational school districts may apply as a subgrantee but the applicants must demonstrate in the application that the home districts for all of their students on average meet one or more of the eligibility criteria stated below. 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.
- ESC grant applicants may apply for K-12 funding as a part of a consortium of one or more eligible LEAs. Each member district, exempted village school district, community school, joint vocational school district, or cooperative education school district of the consortium must meet the eligibility requirements stated below. In addition, ESCs may serve as partners (defined below) to eligible applicants. ESCs that operate a licensed early childhood program should see eligibility criteria for birth through age 5 grants above.

LEAs interested in applying for a Striving Readers Comprehensive Literacy Subgrant, including all LEAs applying as members of a consortium, at the K-12 level must meet **at least one** of the following criteria to be eligible:

- LEA has 50 percent or more learners from economically disadvantaged backgrounds;
- LEA has 5 percent or more learners identified as English learners;
- LEA has 10 percent or more learners identified as students with disabilities;
- LEA has fewer than 50 percent learners proficient on grades 3 through 5 Ohio State test in ELA;
- LEA has fewer than 50 percent learners proficient on grades 6 through 8 Ohio State test in ELA;
- LEA has fewer than 50 percent learners proficient on the high school Ohio State test ELA I or ELA II;
- LEA has fewer than 40 percent learners on track on Kindergarten Readiness Assessment Language & Literacy.

Data submitted must represent data from school year 2016-2017 so that it can be verified by the Department. Subgrant recipients will update this data each year of the subgrant.

If the LEA serves multiple buildings, individual buildings served under the subgrant application must also meet one of the criteria above. In addition, each building served under a consortium's subgrant application must also meet one of the criteria above.

A SPECIAL NOTE ON CHARTERED NON-PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

DEFINITIONS

Consortium

An education consortium is an association of two or more LEAs 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 an Ohio Striving Readers Comprehensive Literacy Subgrant.

Disadvantaged Child

Disadvantaged child refers to children and learners who are at risk of educational failure or otherwise in need of special assistance and support, including a child:

- Living in poverty;
- Challenged by a disability; or
- Identified as an English learner.

Economically Disadvantaged

Students who meet any of the following conditions are considered to be Economically Disadvantaged:

1. Eligible for Free or Reduced-Price Lunch. Students who are known to be eligible to receive the free or reduced-price lunch; a program through the United States Department of Agriculture (U.S.D.A) National School Lunch Program. Eligibility for free or reduced-price lunch can be determined through a variety of methods including the electronic direct certification process or completion by a parent or guardian of a free and reduced-price lunch application. A student with an approved application on file for a free or reduced-price lunch is qualified to be reported to the Department as economically disadvantaged;
 - To be eligible for free lunch, a student's family income must be at or below 130 percent of the federal poverty level. To be eligible for reduced-price lunch, a student's family income must be at or below 185 percent of the federal poverty level. The income guidelines for free and reduced-price meals are updated annually and published by the United States Department of Agriculture (U.S.D.A.) and the Ohio Department of Education, Office of Safety, Health, and Nutrition.

2. Resident of a household in which a member is eligible for free or reduced-price lunch. Students who have not submitted an application for free or reduced-price lunch or who have not been directly certified as eligible but reside in a household in which a member (e.g., sibling) is known to be eligible for free or reduced-price lunch via an approved application or through direct certification; or
3. Public Assistance. Students who are known to be recipients of or whose guardians are known to be recipients of public assistance. A source for determining whether a student's family is receiving public assistance is the Education Monetary Assistance Distribution (EMAD) system; or
4. Title I Application. Students whose parents or guardians have completed a Title I student income form and meet the income guidelines specified.

Eligible Subgrantee

An eligible subgrantee means one or more LEAs or, in the case of early literacy, one or more LEAs or nonprofit providers of early childhood education, with a demonstrated record of effectiveness in improving language and early literacy development of children from birth through age five and in providing professional development in language and early literacy development.

Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA)

Enacted in 1993, GPRA was designed to improve program management throughout the Federal government. Agencies are required to develop a five-year strategic plan outlining its mission, long-term goals for the agency's major functions, performance measures, and reporting results. The strategic plan is updated every three years; DOL's current strategic plan can be found on the [Strategic Plan](#) webpage.

In addition to the strategic plan, agencies submit an annual performance report to the Office of Management and Budget with established fiscal year performance goals, objectives on how to achieve these goals, and an explanation of how performance is measured and verified.

Local Educational Agency (LEA)

Local Educational Agency means:

1. A public board of education or other public authority legally constituted within a State for either administrative control of or direction of, or to perform service functions for, public elementary or secondary schools in:
 - a. A city, county, township, school district or other political subdivision of a State; or
 - b. Such combination of school districts or counties a State recognizes as an administrative agency for its public elementary or secondary schools;
2. Any other public institution or agency that has administrative control and direction of a public elementary or secondary school; or
3. Any other public institution or agency that has administrative control and direction of a vocational education program.

Partnership

A partnership is an association between a subgrant applicant and educational stakeholder(s) in which the stakeholder agrees to provide human and material assets or access to academic and administrative resources to the subgrant applicant to develop or execute a Striving Readers grant application. However, in a partnership, only the subgrant applicant is responsible for ensuring the subgrant is developed and executed according to the terms of the subgrant agreement with the Striving Readers Comprehensive Literacy Grant requirements. Subgrant applicant partners are responsible only to the extent provided in their Partnership Agreement with the subgrant applicant.