California Department of Education

Executive Office

SBE-002 (REV. 11/2017)

memo-eab-eeed-dec19item01

# **MEMORANDUM**

DATE: December 2, 2019

TO: MEMBERS, State Board of Education

FROM: TONY THURMOND, State Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUBJECT: Comprehensive Literacy State Development Grant

## Summary of Key Issues

On September 27, 2019, the California Department of Education (CDE) was awarded $37,512,448 for the federal Comprehensive Literacy State Development (CLSD) grant. This grant will allow the CDE to leverage and expand existing statewide infrastructure, guidance, and expertise to bring coherence to the system of literacy supports to improve student outcomes over a period of five years.

In July, the CDE provided an item to the State Board of Education (SBE), sharing the proposal as it was submitted to the U.S. Department of Education. That item is posted on the CDE SBE Agenda for July 2019 Item 10 web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/ag/ag/yr19/agenda201907.asp>.

The proposal contains three objectives for the CDE to accomplish over a five year period:

1. Align local and state literacy initiatives by establishing dedicated staff positions within the CDE to lead a coordinated effort to build state and local capacity over the life of the project.
2. Develop and implement an evidence-based comprehensive state literacy plan (SLP) that aligns and integrates state literacy initiatives, content standards, and state guidance documents to support teachers of students from birth through grade twelve. This SLP will be based upon data gathered from a comprehensive literacy needs assessment.
3. Build local capacity to establish, align, and implement local literacy initiatives that emphasize family and community involvement to address the needs of California’s most vulnerable children.

For the third objective, the CDE will issue up to $36,100,000 in competitive grants to eleven county offices of education (COE) or consortia of COEs.

These COEs will support evidence-based literacy instruction within their regions and help districts develop local literacy plans based upon the SLP.

The CDE is adhering to the following timeline to meet these objectives:

| **Activity** | **Date** |
| --- | --- |
| **Disseminate/Promote Comprehensive Literacy Needs Assessment** | **December 2019** |
| Local educational agencies (LEAs) complete comprehensive literacy survey to inform planning | February 2020 |
| Virtual convening of the State Literacy Team (SLT) to analyze results of literacy needs assessment | Late February 2020 |
| In-person convening of the SLT to provide recommendations for the SLP | March 2020 |
| SBE Information Memorandum summarizing work to date | April 2020 |
| Present draft SLP to the SBE for feedback | May 2020 |
| Present SLP to the SBE for approval | July 2020 |
| Disseminate request for applications (RFA) | July 2020 |
| Announce awards for subgrantees | September 2020 |
| Provide annual trainings to all subgrantees to help inform and analyze local literacy plans | October 2020–September 2024 |
| Build and populate online repository of resources | October 2020–September 2024 |

## Attachment(s)

None.