

# Early Literacy Support Block Grant Local Educational Agency Funding and Next Steps

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CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
Tony Thurmond, State Superintendent of Public Instruction

# Welcome

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# Housekeeping

- Webinar participants have been placed on mute
- Questions will be collected in the chat and we will email answers to the group
- PowerPoint with notes will be available on the CDE Early Literacy Support Block (ELSB) Grant web page
  - Search “ELSB Grant” or visit <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/pl/elsbgrant.asp>



# Early Literacy Support Block Grant: Local Educational Agencies

- California Senate Bill (SB) 98 (2020 Education Omnibus Trailer Bill) Section 113 appropriates \$50 million from the State General Fund to administer the three-year ELSB grant.
- \$47 million is available to fund eligible local educational agencies (LEAs) to improve early literacy using a variety of strategies, programs, and/or services.
- Identified LEAs have the 75 schools with the highest percentage of students in grade three scoring at level 1 on the 2018 and 2019 English Language Arts (ELA) summative assessment.
- Eligible grantees were notified in August 2020 and invited to submit applications for funding. A list of all eligible schools is posted on the ELSB grant web page.



# Local Educational Agencies: Grant Funding and Duration

- Grantees: LEAs with eligible schools
- Grant budget: \$47 million
- Grant period: December 2020 through June 2023



# Grant Funding Breakdown

- Each LEA will receive a base grant of \$40,000 plus \$10,000 per eligible school for development of a Root Cause Analysis/Needs Assessment and a Literacy Action Plan (LAP).
- Upon approval of the LAP, LEAs will receive the balance of their year one awards.



# Three Funding Tiers

SB 98 Sec. 113 (2)(c): *"The State Department of Education shall establish the per-school grant amount for an eligible school based on the school's grade 3 enrollment, with three tiers of funding based on the 2018–19 enrollment of grade 3 pupils at eligible schools."*



# Grant Funding Breakdown Detail

Tier	Three-Year Award	Annual Award
<b>Tier 1 Schools</b> Up to 40 students	<b>\$338,823</b>	\$112,941 2020–2021 \$112,941 2021–2022 \$112,941 2022–2023
<b>Tier 2 Schools</b> 41-80 students	<b>\$563,140</b>	\$187,713.33 2020–2021 \$187,713.33 2021–2022 \$187,713.33 2022–2023
<b>Tier 3 Schools</b> 81 or more students	<b>\$943,848</b>	\$314,616 2020–2021 \$314,616 2021–2022 \$314,616 2022–2023





# Early Literacy Support Block Grant Goal

Development and implementation of literacy instruction and support programs, particularly focused on literacy in early grades, ultimately resulting in improved student outcomes

- The Expert Lead in Literacy will support LEAs to achieve this goal.



# Root Cause Analysis and Needs Assessment

SB 98 Section 133 (2)(A–E): *"the local educational agency shall, for each of its eligible schools, conduct a root cause analysis and needs assessment...examine both school-level and local educational agency-level practices or unmet needs...identify the strengths and weaknesses of both the eligible school and the local educational agency with regard to literacy instruction in kindergarten and grades 1 to 3, inclusive...consult with stakeholders...partner with staff with expertise in literacy from the county office of education..."*



# Local Literacy Action Plan

SB 98 Section 133 (3)(A–G): *"Based on the root cause analysis and needs assessment, the local educational agency shall develop a three-year local educational agency literacy action plan, consistent with all of the following:...include goals and actions to improve literacy instruction...identify metrics to measure progress toward the goals and actions...identify planned expenditures for programs or services...provide a copy of the draft local educational agency literacy action plan to each eligible school to share with the school community before it is finalized for presentation to the governing board or body of the local educational agency...may develop one literacy action plan addressing all of its eligible schools..."*



# Early Literacy Support Block Grant Allowable Expenditures

- Category One: Access to High-Quality Literacy Teaching
- Category Two: Support for Literacy Learning
- Category Three: Pupil Supports
- Category Four: Family and Community Supports



# Category One:

## Access to High-Quality Literacy Teaching

- Hiring of literacy coaches or instructional aides to provide support to struggling pupils, including, among others, bilingual reading specialists to support English learner programs
- Development of strategies to provide culturally responsive curriculum and instruction
- Evidence-based professional development for teachers, instructional aides, and school leaders regarding literacy instruction and literacy achievement and the use of data to help identify and support struggling pupils
- PL for teachers and school leaders regarding implementation of the English Language Arts/English Language Development Framework (ELA/ELD Framework) and the use of data to support effective instruction



# Category Two: Support for Literacy Learning

- Purchase of literacy curriculum resources and instructional materials aligned with the ELA content standards and the ELA/ELD Framework, but only if the LAP also includes professional learning (PL) for staff on effective use of these materials
- Purchase of diagnostic assessment instruments to help assess pupil needs and progress and training for school staff regarding the use of those assessment instruments



# Category Three: Pupil Supports

- Expanded learning programs, such as before- and after-school programs or summer school, to improve pupils' access to literacy instruction
- Extended school day to enable implementation of breakfast in the classroom or library models to support expanded literacy instruction
- Strategies to improve school climate, pupil connectedness, and attendance and to reduce exclusionary discipline practices, including in-school suspensions that may limit a pupil's time in school
- Strategies to implement research-based social and emotional learning (SEL) approaches, including restorative justice
- Expanded access to the school library



# Category Four: Family and Community Supports

- Development of trauma-informed practices and supports for pupils and families
- Provision of mental health resources to support pupil learning
- Strategies to implement Multi-tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) and the Response to Intervention approach
- Development of literacy training and education for parents to help develop a supportive literacy environment in the home
- Strategies to improve parent and community engagement and to improve communication with parents regarding how to address pupils' literacy needs





# Non-Allowable Costs

- Supplanting of existing funding and efforts
- Acquisition of equipment for administrative or personal use
- Acquisition of furniture, unless an integral part of an equipment workstation or to provide reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities
- Food services, refreshments, banquets, meals
- Purchase of space



# Non-Allowable Costs (Con't)

- Payment for memberships in professional organizations
- Purchase of promotional favors
- Subscriptions to journals or magazines
- Travel outside the United States or to states included in Assembly Bill 1887's travel prohibition list found at <https://oag.ca.gov/ab1887>



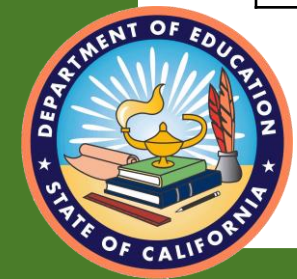
# Reporting Requirements

- Quarterly written report demonstrating expenditures that are consistent with the agreed-upon budget
- Annual report on the achievement towards the actions and goals described and an assessment of progress made on the metrics identified



# Early Literacy Support Block Grant Timeline

Activity	Date
LEA Application Closed	October 30, 2020, 4:00 p.m. PST
Expert Lead in Literacy Award Posted	November 18, 2020
LEA Awards Posted	November 30, 2020
Expert Lead in Literacy Start Date	December 1, 2020



# Early Literacy Support Block Grant: Expert Lead in Literacy

Section 114 of SB 98 appropriates \$3 million to establish an Expert Lead in Literacy within the Statewide System of Support (SoS). The Expert Lead in Literacy will:

- Be a county office of education (COE)
- Support grantees to build statewide PL networks and provide technical assistance to increase statewide capacity in implementing effective literacy instruction



# Expert Lead in Literacy: Qualifications

- Abilities and expertise developing, implementing, and supporting other LEAs and their schools with literacy instruction and support programs, particularly focused on literacy in early grades (kindergarten—which includes transitional kindergarten—and grades one through three)
- Expertise in the four categories of programs and services specified in SB 98, Section 113(e): access to high-quality literacy teaching, support for literacy learning, pupil supports, and family and community supports



# Expert Lead in Literacy: Role

The Expert Lead in Literacy will support LEA grantees by providing help with:

- Culturally-responsive curriculum and instruction
- Evidence-based PL pertaining to the implementation of the ELA/ELD Framework
- Expanded learning programs
- Research-based SEL approaches
- MTSS
- Parent/guardian and community engagement



# Expert Lead in Literacy: Key Responsibilities

- Assist LEAs with eligible schools with the development of root cause analyses, needs assessments, and local literacy plans
- Assist grantees and the COEs that work with them to build capacity around literacy instruction and support programs
- As part of the SoS, and in coordination with the CDE and the California Collaborative for Educational Excellence (CCEE), create PL networks to help build statewide capacity among LEAs in implementing effective literacy instruction and support programs at their schools

**Expert Lead in Literacy announced November 18, 2020**





# Additional Information

**2020 SB 98 Authorization of the ELSB Grant**  
available on the CDE ELSB Grant web page at  
<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/pl/elsbgrantsb98.asp>

Questions?

[ELSBgrant@cde.ca.gov](mailto:ELSBgrant@cde.ca.gov)



# Thank You

