

Early Literacy Grant

Background

The Early Literacy Grant is designed to distribute funds to local education agencies to ensure the implementation of Scientifically Based Reading Research in all aspects of K-3 literacy instruction, including universal, targeted and intensive instructional interventions. Requirements of participation in the Early Literacy Grant include:

- selection of materials (both core and intervention) from the [Colorado Department of Education Advisory List](#)
- use of either DIBELS Next or PALS for interim assessment and progress monitoring tool
- monthly consulting with an approved professional development provider

Cohort one of the Early Literacy Grant runs from 2013-2016 and includes participants from 30 schools representing 15 districts in seven regions of the state.

Support to Grantees

- Assist grantees in establishing instructional systems based on Scientifically Based Reading Research to improve the quality of reading instruction for all K-3 students.
- Help schools implement a multi-tiered support system to reduce the number of students reading below grade level (including students with a Significant Reading Deficiency).
- Provide professional development to principals, teachers and intervention teachers (i.e., special education, English language development, Title I) on effective instructional practices and the underlying teaching infrastructures to improve reading achievement among K-3 students.
- Assist grantees in administering and interpreting approved interim and diagnostic assessments pursuant to the READ Act.
- Support implementation of universal/core programs as well as programs designed for targeted and intensive instructional interventions.¹
- Assists grantees with testing schedules (includes progress monitoring tests with students reading below grade level) and interpreting assessment data.

Effectiveness of the Early Literacy Grant - 2014-2015

- 12 of 30 schools met the goal of reducing students performing below benchmark by 50 percent.
- 29 of 30 schools met the goal of reducing the percentage of students with a Significant Reading Deficiency (SRD) by at least 25 percent - most reduced nearly 50 percent.
- 11 of 30 schools have SRD percentages of 10 percent or less.
- All schools made average to well above average progress moving students to benchmark.*
- All schools made average to well above average progress moving students from the well below benchmark category.*

*Data is not available for the four schools using PALS.

¹ Listed in the CDE READ Act advisory list of instructional programming



Impact on Students with a Significant Reading Deficiency

In 2013, the READ Act called for the initial reporting of students with a Significant Reading Deficiency (SRD). Early Literacy Grant Schools have outperformed the rest of the state in reduction of students identified with an SRD each year as outlined in the graph below:

	% SRD in 2013	% SRD in 2014	% SRD in 2015
Colorado	16.5%	14.4%	13.8%
ELG Schools	20.4%	14.8%	13.5%

What's Ahead for the Early Literacy Grant?

Full funding for Cohort One will conclude at the end of the 2015-2016 school year. Schools will be offered small year four funds to help with sustainability efforts. Year four applications will be released mid-December.

Applications for cohort two will open mid-January and will be due mid-March. All local education agencies in the state are eligible to apply on behalf of schools which serve students in grades K-3. Local education agencies may also apply on behalf of a school or group of schools (consortium) and BOCES may apply on behalf of school districts.

Where can I learn more?

- For additional information contact Rachel Anderberg at anderberg_r@cde.state.co.us or 303-590-5668
- Office of Literacy webpage: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/coloradoliteracy>
- To view all CDE fact sheets, visit: www.cde.state.co.us/Communications/factsheetsandfaqs