Indiana Department of Education
Dr. Katie Jenner, Secretary of Education

Competitive Science of Reading Grant Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

The 2023-2024 Competitive Science of Reading Grant is designed to support public school corporations, charter schools, and state-accredited non-public schools that serve K-3 students and whose educators are interested in implementing evidence-based practices aligned with the science of reading and Indiana's Priorities for Early Literacy. Access the _2023-2024 Competitive Science of Reading Grant Guidance_ for additional information. The Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) provides answers to the following FAQs to support corporations and schools in completing the application process.

Number	Question	Answer
1	**If a school did not opt in to administer IREAD-3 to grade two students last year but will for spring 2024, is the school eligible for this grant?**	Yes, schools that will opt in to administer IREAD-3 to grade two students during the IREAD-3 Spring 2024 administration fulfill eligibility requirements. Schools may opt in to administer IREAD-3 to grade two students through February 10, 2024. Additional information regarding this opportunity can be found here.
2	**Can a corporation with some schools currently in the Indiana Literacy Cadre, but not all, apply for this grant on behalf of the remaining schools?**	Yes. Corporations must ensure to list the schools not currently in the Indiana Literacy Cadre that would be served via this grant opportunity within the grant proposal in Section 1 of the application.
3	**Does the grant support the hiring of two part-time literacy coaches instead of one full-time literacy coach?**	No. Research on instructional improvement has reached consensus that coaches' work with teachers must be consistent and ongoing if it is to support teachers' development of ambitious and equitable instruction (Desimone, 2009; Jackson, Horn, & Cobb, 2018; Hawley & Valli, 1999; Wilson & Berne, 1999). Student performance increases when coaches spend more than the median percentage of time working with teachers on issues of instruction (Bean et al. 2010).
4	**Could one full-time literacy coach funded by this grant support two schools?**	Yes. However, schools should make this arrangement clear in their grant narrative to justify how and why the literacy coach would support two schools.
5	**Are all grant funds required to be spent by August 31, 2024, or can the funds be budgeted/encumbered by then?***	All 2023-2024 Science of Reading Grant funds must be spent by August 31, 2024. Schools may not use this grant to pre-pay for training that occurs after August 31, 2024.

*The grant period was extended through August 31, 2024.

6	**Can schools fund their current literacy coaches with this grant?**	Yes. Schools may utilize grant funding to fund their currently employed literacy coaches between the November 3, 2023 through August 31, 2024 grant period. Expenditures before and after the grant period are not permissible.
7	**Can this grant be used to support non-literacy coaching staff whose job duties are updated to support the goals of the grant?**	Yes, if your application provides a robust justification for this change that aligns with grant goals, this is a permissible use of funds. Similarly, the grant may also be used to pay substitute teachers while educators attend training that aligns with grant goals.
8	**Can Public Employees' Retirement Fund (PERF) and Teachers' Retirement Fund (TRF) employee salaries be included in salaries for this grant?**	Yes.
9	**Where can I find the approved list of core curricula?**	IDOE's Literacy Center is currently receiving applications for committee and state review from curriculum vendors to support advisory high-quality curricular materials. IDOE will release these approved curricula programs in January 2024. This initial advisory list will not include supplemental curricula, but grant reviewers will carefully review all supplemental curricula suggested in grant applications. Applicants are not required to identify curricula to purchase within their application. Applications may state that they will select from the list of approved curricula upon release.
10	**What requirements does the grant place on professional development?**	Priority consideration will be given to applications from grant applicant(s) that attend independent teacher training programs accredited by the International Dyslexia Association (IDA). Additional qualifications for professional development are listed in Section 7, Priority 2 of the grant guidance, which states: ● Describe the professional development program(s) that the applicant(s) plan to implement; ● Describe proposed strategies to develop leaders and educators who can lead efforts to implement evidence-based practices aligned with science of reading; ● Delineate any applicable strategies specifically targeting administrators, teachers, literacy coaches, etc; and

		● Describe the expected, measurable student outcomes and planned tools and procedures to monitor and evaluate professional development impact and outcomes.
11	**Is maximum allocation by enrollment based on building size or corporation size?**	Only the PreK-5 enrollment of the elementary school buildings that will be impacted by the grant will be counted. If a district has four elementary schools but only one will be receiving a literacy coach, only that building's PreK-5 enrollment counts toward the grant's maximum allocation.
12	**Do all schools included in an application need an accompanying principal letter?**	No, only one principal letter is required per application, regardless of the number of schools included.
13	**Which set of state education data should schools reference in regards to state averages when completing their application?**	Corporations/schools should utilize the most-recent INview data to support grant applications. If your school's metrics have changed significantly since INview's last update, please note this in the narrative portion of the application.

Contact IDOE's Literacy Center with additional questions regarding this grant opportunity.