

HB 3198: Executive Summary

Governor Tina Kotek set a vision for early literacy to ensure every child has access to consistent, culturally responsive, and research-aligned¹ literacy instruction in all of Oregon's public elementary schools.

1. Teachers should be empowered with the resources and support to teach reading and writing.
2. School administrators should have support to create school-wide systems that ensure every student in every classroom and every elementary instructor has what they need to be successful.
3. Parents are children's first teachers and should be empowered to be full partners in their children's literacy development. We must collectively prioritize and work together to create the conditions to empower parents.

HB 3198 (2023) was passed with bipartisan support as a recognition that Oregon's literacy outcomes won't change without meaningful and sustained investments that create the conditions for students to learn to read, read to learn, and close long-standing disparities in access and opportunities. The purpose of the Early Literacy Success Initiative is to:

- Increase early literacy for children from birth through 3rd grade;
- Reduce early literacy academic disparities for student groups that have historically experienced academic disparities;
- Increase support to parents and guardians to enable them to be full partners in the development of their children's literacy skill and knowledge development; and
- Increase access to early literacy support that is research-aligned, culturally responsive, student-centered, and family-centered.

In service of that purpose, the legislation established a Community Grant program administered by the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) and a Birth through Five Plan and Fund administered by the Department of Early Learning and Care (DELC), each with a \$1 expenditure limitation. A third component of the legislation included a School Grant administered by ODE funded at \$94 million for the 2023-25 biennium. The School Grant funds were appropriated by the legislature; however, the \$20 million portion of resources to strengthen and expand community-based services, supports for parents as their children's first teachers, and to sovereign tribal nations to support and sustain indigenous language development and early literacy were held back pending a plan provided to the legislature in December 2023. **This plan provides that information with a request to the legislature to release the funds.**

Birth Through Five Literacy Plan & Fund

Per House Bill 3198 (2023) budget note, "The Department of Early Learning and Care is directed to develop a Birth Through Five Literacy Plan to expand culturally specific early literacy programs for children from birth to age five, to provide training and coaching for direct service staff in

¹ Research-aligned is defined in [HB 3198](#) (2023) as literacy-focused, culturally responsive, and relevant to diverse learners; based on long-term research derived from the science of reading and writing; and applies instructional practices that are developmentally appropriate and designed for students with disabilities and students who are English Language Learners.

early literacy, and to develop and expand language revitalization efforts by federally recognized Indian tribes in Oregon.”

This plan articulates DELC programs that already support parents and young children in early literacy and gaps that families have identified. To begin addressing these gaps, DELC recommends utilizing \$4.7 million of the Birth Through Five Literacy Fund to enhance early literacy activities offered by the Kindergarten Readiness Partnership and Innovation (KPI) program administered by the regional Early Learning Hubs across the state. DELC proposes utilizing the remaining funds for the Birth Through Five Literacy Program, establishing a program budget of \$4.7 million in the second year of the biennium and leveraging the eligibility requirements of the Early Childhood Equity Fund.

In July 2023, DELC began engagement with existing partners and sovereign tribal nations to guide the effort going forward. DELC will require a \$9.4 million limitation increase to create and implement the Birth Through Five Literacy Plan, subject to approval of the plan. Upon approval of the \$9.4 million limitation increase, DELC will conduct more robust planning and coordination of services for the 2024 Birth Through Five Literacy Plan.

Community Grant

The Early Literacy Community Success Grant (\$10 million) program, administered by the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) is intended to strengthen and expand community-based services, supports for parents as their children’s first teachers, and sovereign tribal nations to support and sustain indigenous language development.

The Early Literacy Community Success Grant Fund currently has a \$1 statutory appropriation. ODE will require a \$10 million limitation increase to implement the grant program, which is subject to plan approval. The Grant program is separated into two components:

The Early Literacy Tribal Grants (\$2 million) is a noncompetitive set-aside for distribution to each of the nine tribes to support early literacy and language revitalization. In recognizing tribal sovereignty, each Tribe will develop a Project Plan. Outcomes and indicators for those plans will adhere to HB 3198 and build from the [AI/AN Student Success Plan](#). Subject to release of funds, ODE will distribute grant agreements in April 2024. ODE will develop Indigenous guidance and frameworks to support Tribes and monitor the respective grant-funded Project Plans.

The Early Literacy Community Grant program (\$8 million) is to support families with early literacy outside of the school setting. ODE will implement the Community Grant plan in two phases.

Phase 1 (August 2023 to March 2024). ODE is leveraging existing ESSER and HB3198/SEIA administrative funds to conduct statewide community engagement and develop the Oregon Early Literacy Framework and Toolkit that will address how community organizations and the parents/caregivers they work with can support children outside of school hours.

Phase 2 (March 2023 to June 2025): Upon approval of the \$10 million limitation increase, ODE will conduct a statewide Request for Application process to implement the framework and toolkit.

The Community Grant outcomes and corresponding indicators will focus on capacity building of CBOs, indigenous communities, ESDs, and other qualifying organizations to engage families in early literacy.