



Agenda/Notes

Office of Governor Tina Kotek

RJC Education Committee

April 28, 2025 – Zoom

1:00 -2:30 pm

Moderator – Javier Cervantes

MEMBERS

X	Angela Uherbelau	X	Jaclyn Caires Hurley		Marie Chisholm-Burns
X	Cynthia Richardson	X	Jennifer Simonson	X	Mark Jackson
	Djimet Dogo	X	Jennifer Wilson	X	Sonya Moody-Jurado
	Dr. Jenny Pool-Radway		Jimmy Howard		
X	George Mendoza	X	Kali Ladd		

OTHER ATTENDEES

	Andre Bealer	X	Johnna Timmes	X	Yasmin Solorio
E	Rachael Moser	X	Matt Garrett, ODE	X	Javier Cervantes
X	Dr. Charlene Williams, ODE	X	Ben Cannon, HECC	X	Rudyane Rivera-Lindstrom, HECC
X	Torrey Sims, ODE		Dorothy Spence, GO	X	Matt Garrett, ODE
X	Cynthia Stinson, ODE				

Topic/Lead	Notes/Main Points	Decisions/Action Items
Revisit: ELA Cohort 1 grantees, county level 3rd Grade ELA Achievement rates (Matthew Garrett)	<p><i>Matt Garrett shares ODE slide show</i></p> <p>Angela: Concerned on the heat map, Salem is not on the map. Salem has struggling students who need and deserve support. I know you said that is something that might be contemplated in a rule change. Will ODE recommend looking at geography and data and making determinations on cohorts or applications to prioritize. Sounds like there is no current assessment with these cohorts and money going out. Are any individual CBOs doing a pre and post assessment to see growth over the time they have the grants and working with kids?</p> <p>Cynthia Stinson: We do not have a grantee that is serving Marion county. Will have to go back to see if we had any applicants. With a request for applications, you have to score how an applicant responded to an application. It may be there were some issues if there was an applicant from Salem that fell below level for acceptance, or if they didn't meet requirements. We can check on that and let you know if we had Salem-Keizer applicants. Areas for improvement and pairing low proficiency to make it better.</p>	Cynthia Stinson, ODE to check if Marion County applied and will report back. ODE slides to be shared out to committee.

Angela: Do you know any applicants themselves that said they will do pre and post assessments to show things are working

Cynthia Stinson: Some CBO's have pre and post testing. Question for next round is do we *need* to do that and how do we do that.

George Mendoza: Parameters for how school districts will support with data monitoring and transition. Which students get selected and how. Training of staff/professional development around the exact program they are implementing, who's doing ongoing training and support. As well as any families getting training to work with their children. Monitoring pieces to see if its effective or not.

Matt: Appreciate those questions. We should have additional knowledge, we will continue to seek your council.

Kali: What are you recommending for next time? Sounds like things were missed for rule making. What are the recommendations that you're making to adjust so this roles out in the way it was intended to.

Matt: Not sure it was missed, just not in the construct as it was initially developed. Construct now is we can do better. As we continue to move forward, that's when we would take opportunity to add rule and statutory language for requests for application. Will be an iterative process.

Cynthia Stinson: We have just launched cohort 1 and are in the request for application stage for cohort 2. We haven't trekked very long and are just starting to understand opportunities and challenges. Will pinpoint places where there's inflexibility that causes CBO's to be not as affective or rule construct barriers we can examine as we go along.

Kali: What were the impediments that got us here? I know this was slow going out and to community. Trying to wrap my head around what happened.

Torrey Sims: Can talk high level barriers we encountered.

Cynthia Stinson: District grants got a head start. Community grants weren't authorized a little over a

	<p>year ago. Not an ideal timeline roll out, we are trying hard to make sure it doesn't happen with cohort 2. Only challenge so far with cohort 2 is we had to turn it around really quickly. Change for improvement was very limited due to the fast turnaround needed to get RFA posted by March 31st. Timeline it takes to get rule change is a process and was limited in timing.</p> <p>Kali: This is a Racial Justice Council Committee and when it comes to RJC work, when it comes to things not being said or approved, when it's the community dollars not going out, we have to question that. I really question the process whereby this one bucket of money was faced with all these impediments and timeline, it was set up not to succeed.</p> <p>Mark: Pushback on community investment. Want to make sure we simulate what was just shared and underheard Dr. Williams and her team to push for those investments.</p> <p>Cynthia Richardson: Any questions</p> <p>Javier: We can share these slides. Will be available as we go forward. We have great questions to help guide more process questions for our leaders, when opportunities to engage. Please let us know as quickly as we can so our committee can provide more insight. Kali's question and Geroge's question are really good. If we can find those areas to support, let us know. The committee is ready, willing, and able to support.</p> <p>George: to echo Kali, the more we get it right with the system, process and paraments – the more equitable it gets off the bat. From an equity standpoint, when you have the system set up for success, it will be better for everyone.</p>	
<p>Federal Impacts on Higher Ed Anti-DEI Stance and the HECC. (Ben Cannon/ Rudyane Rivera-Lindstrom)</p>	<p>Ben Cannon: Exec Director of HECC. Rudyane is Exec Director for DEIA. HECC is daily assessing the impact of executive orders, grant decisions, and other items coming out of the federal administration. Items can take legal review. We have webpage for updates on our programs, practices and impacts as result of federal action. https://www.oregon.gov/highered/public-engagement/Pages/federal.aspx</p> <p>Back in February a letter was sent, we took a look and said this is really vague and in partnership with DOJ, states have been a part of this multi-state response pushback.</p> <p>https://www.doj.state.or.us/wp-</p>	<p>Dr. Williams to send invitation to DELC to discuss federal updates on early learning, HeadStart, k-12</p>

<content/uploads/2025/03/Joint-AG-Guidance-re-DEI-and-OCR-Dear-Colleague-Letter.pdf>

Law has not changed, work will continue. A lot of the messaging from agency and DOJ letter is in that spirit to give confidence and bolster position of institution and community leaders.

Newsletter was sent out on Friday, opening message indirectly addresses assault of administration on certain institutions. Affirming values of academic freedom and other important values to higher education.

https://content.govdelivery.com/bulletins/gd/ORHECC-3dc4828?wgt_ref=ORHECC_WIDGET_1

Johnna: The AG has an injunction with 19 other states around this issue. <https://www.doj.state.or.us/media-home/news-media-releases/attorney-general-dan-rayfield-sues-trump-administration-over-unlawful-conditions-on-funding-for-k-12-schools/>

Ben Cannon: What she is referring to is threat relative to federal funding to Oregon schools as a result of DEI activity. Higher Ed context is state of Oregon does not collect those federal dollars for the most part. Most federal funding and other activities comes directly from US Dept of Education. There are other things in the news to note. Revocation of waiver from Biden administration's Dept of Education, for TRIO programs (federally funded) to serve undocumented students. Oregon and California have been operating under waiver that typically requires citizenship, was revoked.

https://content.govdelivery.com/bulletins/gd/ORHECC-3dc4828?wgt_ref=ORHECC_WIDGET_1

Students and Visas. Administration is undoing some visa revocation over the last month. We are really concerned on what diminishment of international students at universities can be.

Cuts at US Dept of Education. Still early to tell the impact of those cuts. Considerable risk we think will be FAFSA office, which can threaten ease to access grants and loans for Oregon students. Also worried on mass cuts to Office of Civil Rights in Dept of Education, with staffing cuts. More students are coming to us with complaints as they are not getting redress at US Dept of Education.

Rudyane: There's so much happening. Director for DEI

	<p>and Accessibility. We've heard loud and clear from DEI officers at institutions, been meeting pretty consistently to align with updates and what's happening. Even though it look a little scary that Columbia gave into some of the threats. Harvard didn't, and triggered a domino effect to not have other universities fall back.</p>	
<p>Updates (Johnna):</p> <p>a. Accountability Bill</p> <p>b. Summer Learning Bill</p> <p>c. Advocacy from the Committee (Javier)</p>	<p>Johnna Timmes: Glad to be here. Want to go back and thanks to Ben and Rudyane, seeing the work they are doing and with Oregon Teacher scholar's program.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HB2009 and SB141 now in Ways and Means. • HB2007 Summer Learning. Voted out of house and senate. Signed by Governor on April 23rd. Last Friday ODE put on FAQ that will guide HB2007 and will be doing a webinar on the 29th for districts that are eligible to apply. \$35 million appropriated by legislature. We feel good about getting that money out in 2025. We have sustainable funding, will not cover all districts around the state. Information from ODE about summer learning allocation: https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/ORED/bulletins/3dda042 • Theres lots going on around federal response on agencies and our office and partnership with DOJ and AG's office. April 3rd letter sent out, that request was burdensome and unnecessary. Dr. Williams worked with AG and DOJ to put out a letter. Last Friday April 25th, Dan Rayfield, our state AG and other AG's filed suit to ensure 13.8 billion dollars would not be used inappropriately and taken away from out students. https://www.doj.state.or.us/media-home/news-media-releases/attorney-general-dan-rayfield-sues-trump-administration-over-unlawful-conditions-on-funding-for-k-12-schools/ <p>We continue to do the work for our Oregon families.</p> <p>Mark: Thank you, Dr. Williams, for your leadership, that response letter was courageous. It's important to us.</p> <p>Javier: Is there any advocacy that needs to be happening to support the process. Is a letter something we'd like to do. Many members of this RJC have been part of the process to approve letters for other committees and get RJC endorsement.</p> <p>Johnna: If you chose to write a letter on advocacy,</p>	<p>George and Kali to draft support letter re: Accountability bills. Johnna to help with any questions/guidance.</p>

would be happy to work with anyone, the co-chairs, to answer questions on items you'd like to support. This committee holds a lot of sway, if it's a priority of yours, we'd like to hear that.

Cynthia Richardson: Any discussion on if we want to do a letter?

George: I do think any advocacy or feedback we give back would be good. We would have to meet to go over that. Good to celebrate and have questions on things.

Javier: If the committee decides to do that, we have to select someone. We can have someone start a document online. A draft is proposed and goes to folks for review.

Angela: Have a question on accountability bill before we draft a letter. Second, a few months ago we were asked as committee members on ideas or proposals, I was one of those people and there was there other proposals from other members but we didn't have a discussion on those as well. We can revisit those areas and come back to that in our next meeting. If we are not ready to write a letter

George: If some drafts and we gave feedback to finalize and edit. I like a lot of the things we are doing, but in general it's a good step to do more with data and assessments.

Javier: Draft is not coming from the Governor's office, truly needs to stem from the committee and RJC insight as to accountability.

Cynthia Richardson: Goerge and Angela can start the draft and we can look at it as a committee.

Kali: What is the hope of the accountability or intention? Was on that taskforce for over a year on this bill.

George: I can say there's parts on accountability with assessment. State testing and interim assessments. State assessments have an element to it, if schools aren't showing growth there is support and coaching models all the way to use of funds which creates more pressure yet support for our staff. Theres pieces like reporting data three times a year, transparency for funding, and a few other elements.

Angela:

<https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2025R1/Measures/Analysis/SB141>

Cynthia Richardson: if there are punitive measures, districts should have opportunity to correct themselves or strategies prior to those punitive measures being implemented. Give them time to correct it before they are on a plan.

Kali: I think Dr Williams, you're correct on original question, on if you are supporting the bill or not. I have testified personally. I am not comfortable with an opposition letter.

George: We still have work to do around state assessments, wouldn't say I'm opposed to it.

Kali: Happy to share what I sent to Gov Office on accountability bill focused on interim assessments, looking at OnTrack for third and other grades. Can share that language with you if it could be helpful.

Angela: Don't know if I'm most appropriate, my organization was neutral in accountability bill. Concerns we had on the bill have not changed.

Kali: When it comes to accountability and equity, they go hand in hand.

George: Worth more discussion. We should all be about this growing and closing achievement gaps. Asking people to keep working on state assessments is it for me, good to get coaching and support. If you start taking over funding, can unravel things and violate trust. Maybe it's Kali and I spending time.

Kali: I think we can do that and create a vision for what we hope for. Wondering if co-chairs should be collecting information.

Javier: Whatever is sent to George, you do magic on it. I can share that draft with everyone else. Does that work for folks. Consensus there, Kali to work with George. We need a 2/3 approval for it to move forward to RJC.

<p>Reschedule May Meeting due to Holiday (Javier)</p>	<p>Yasmin: DoodlePoll was sent out to reschedule the meeting on May 26th, as it lands on Memorial Day. Reviewing responses, May 19th at 1pm works best for the overall group.</p> <p><i>Committee consensus to reschedule next meeting to May 19th at 1pm.</i></p> <p>Angela: Request for our committee to have an overview on student success act plans, how much they are funded and what they do. Trying to make connections with different entities in terms of money and efforts.</p> <p>Javier: Dr Williams who would be our point person for that.</p> <p>Dr. Williams: Torrey Sims and I can help gather that for you all.</p> <p>Cynthia Richardson: Will we be following up with accountability letter too?</p> <p>Javier: Yes</p> <p>Cynthia Richardson: Can we have Johnna back for updates?</p> <p>Javier: Yes</p> <p>George: Any K-12 perspective update would be good as well. Anything hitting us that might be a requirement.</p> <p>Kali: Early childhood is not on the table. We should be paying attention to it, it will have huge equity impact.</p> <p>George: Title programs, federal programs that we get, early learning, k-12, HeadStart, possible DEI - those would be important for us to know.</p> <p>Javier: Dr. Williams will you give that?</p> <p>Dr. Williams: Happy to do it, will partner with DELC.</p> <p>Kali: It came up in Black Student Success Plan conversation, around Title 6 and civil rights protections for students of color. Feels like something this committee should be watching. Huge racial justice implications on that.</p> <p>Dr. Williams: Emily is ready to come to this committee</p>	<p>May 19th at 1pm new committee meeting date. Yasmin to send updated calendar invitation out.</p> <p>Dr. Williams to work with Torrey Sims re: overview on Student Success Act Plans for May and Emily re: Title 6 and civil rights protections for students of color.</p>
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	<p>whenever you are ready to have her.</p> <p>Kali: Is it ever possible for us to meet in person?</p> <p>Javier: Being able to organize it with enough time. Done it in the past. If you want to work on a plan, maybe mid-summer. Will keep that in mind</p> <p><i>Co-chairs adjourn meeting at 2:30pm.</i></p>	
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Meeting Materials	 RJC EL Community Grants 4.28.25.pdf
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Zoom Chat

13:01:42 From Rudyane- HECC to Hosts and panelists:

Good afternoon everyone.

13:02:41 From Dr. Charlene Williams to Hosts and panelists:

Good Afternoon!

13:03:51 From Javier Cervantes, Gov. Office (El, He, Him, His) to Hosts and panelists:

1. Revisit: ELA Cohort 1 grantees, county level 3rd Grade ELA Achievement rates (Matthew Garrett)
2. Federal Impacts on Higher Ed Anti-DEI Stance and the HECC.
(Ben Cannon/ Rudyane Rivera-Lindstrom)
3. Updates (Johnna):
 - a. Accountability Bill
 - b. Summer Learning Bill
 - c. Advocacy from the Committee (Javier)
4. Reschedule May Meeting due to Holiday (Javier)

13:07:00 From Torrey Sims to Hosts and panelists:

Could you all make Cynthia Stinson a panelist, please?

13:08:02 From Torrey Sims to Hosts and panelists:

Could you all make Cynthia Stinson a panelist, please?

13:08:16 From Dr. Charlene Williams to Hosts and panelists:

Is Cynthia Here?

13:08:26 From Yasmin Solorio, Gov. Office (She/her) to Hosts and panelists:

Just sent a request over to promote

13:08:56 From Dr. Charlene Williams to Hosts and panelists:

Thank you!

13:24:31 From George.Mendoza to Hosts and panelists:

May have missed: 1. Parameters of ELCG and school districts and how they support one another with data monitoring and Transition; Which students get selected and how? 2. Training of the staff/professional development around what exact program- Ongoing coaching support to staff, families, etc.; 3. Effectiveness monitoring;

13:37:32 From Ben Cannon, HECC to Hosts and panelists:

<https://www.oregon.gov/highered/public-engagement/Pages/federal.aspx>

13:38:58 From Ben Cannon, HECC to Hosts and panelists:

<https://www.doj.state.or.us/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Joint-AG-Guidance-re-DEI-and-OCR-Dear-Colleague-Letter.pdf>

13:41:49 From Johnna Timmes, Governor's Office (she/her) to Hosts and panelists:

<https://www.doj.state.or.us/media-home/news-media-releases/attorney-general-dan-rayfield-sues-trump-administration-over-unlawful-conditions-on-funding-for-k-12-schools/>

13:41:52 From Ben Cannon, HECC to Hosts and panelists:

https://content.govdelivery.com/bulletins/gd/ORHECC-3dc4828?wgt_ref=ORHECC_WIDGET_1

13:44:22 From kali to Hosts and panelists:

Need to step away. Will be back.

13:47:46 From Torrey Sims to Hosts and panelists:

I have a meeting with Andre in the GO. Thank you all for having us and please reach out if you need anything from the Office of Equity Diversity and Inclusion at ODE.

13:55:40 From Johnna Timmes, Governor's Office (she/her) to Hosts and panelists:

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/ORED/bulletins/3dda042>

13:58:35 From Johnna Timmes, Governor's Office (she/her) to Hosts and panelists:

<https://www.doj.state.or.us/media-home/news-media-releases/attorney-general-dan-rayfield-sues-trump-administration-over-unlawful-conditions-on-funding-for-k-12-schools/>

14:03:05 From Dr. Charlene Williams to Hosts and panelists:

Stepping away for a minute. BRB

14:04:50 From Johnna Timmes, Governor's Office (she/her) to Hosts and panelists:

I have to bounce to an update on the injunction. Thank you!

14:12:36 From Dr. Charlene Williams to Hosts and panelists:

I believe Kali is asking what the original question is? "Does RJC want to support/respond to the bill" JWM was mentioned as a potential audience...

14:12:45 From Angela Uherbelau to Hosts and panelists:

<https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2025R1/Measures/Analysis/SB141>

14:20:25 From Mark Jackson to Hosts and panelists:

Thanks George & Kali

14:21:36 From Sonya Moody-Jurado to Hosts and panelists:

Works for me

14:30:08 From Mark Jackson to Hosts and panelists:

I'm willing to host if in Portland

14:30:58 From Rudyane- HECC to Hosts and panelists:

Thanks everyone.



Oregon Early Literacy Community Grants

Presentation to the Racial Justice Council

April 28, 2025

Matthew Garrett

ODE Interim
Deputy Director

Torrey Sims

ODE Interim Assistant
Superintendent Office of
Equity, Diversity and
Inclusion

Cynthia Stinson

ODE Education Program
Standards Team
Director

Early Literacy Community Grants (ELCG)



- Early Literacy Success Initiative HB3198 passed in July 2023
- \$8mil in funding for Early Literacy Community Grants was approved by the Legislature in January 2024
- Legislation created the Early Literacy Community Grants separate from the Early Literacy District Grants and Early Literacy Tribal Grants
- Construction of the statute and Oregon Administrative Rules governing the Community Early Literacy Grants did not contemplate a direct connection between the CELGs and districts

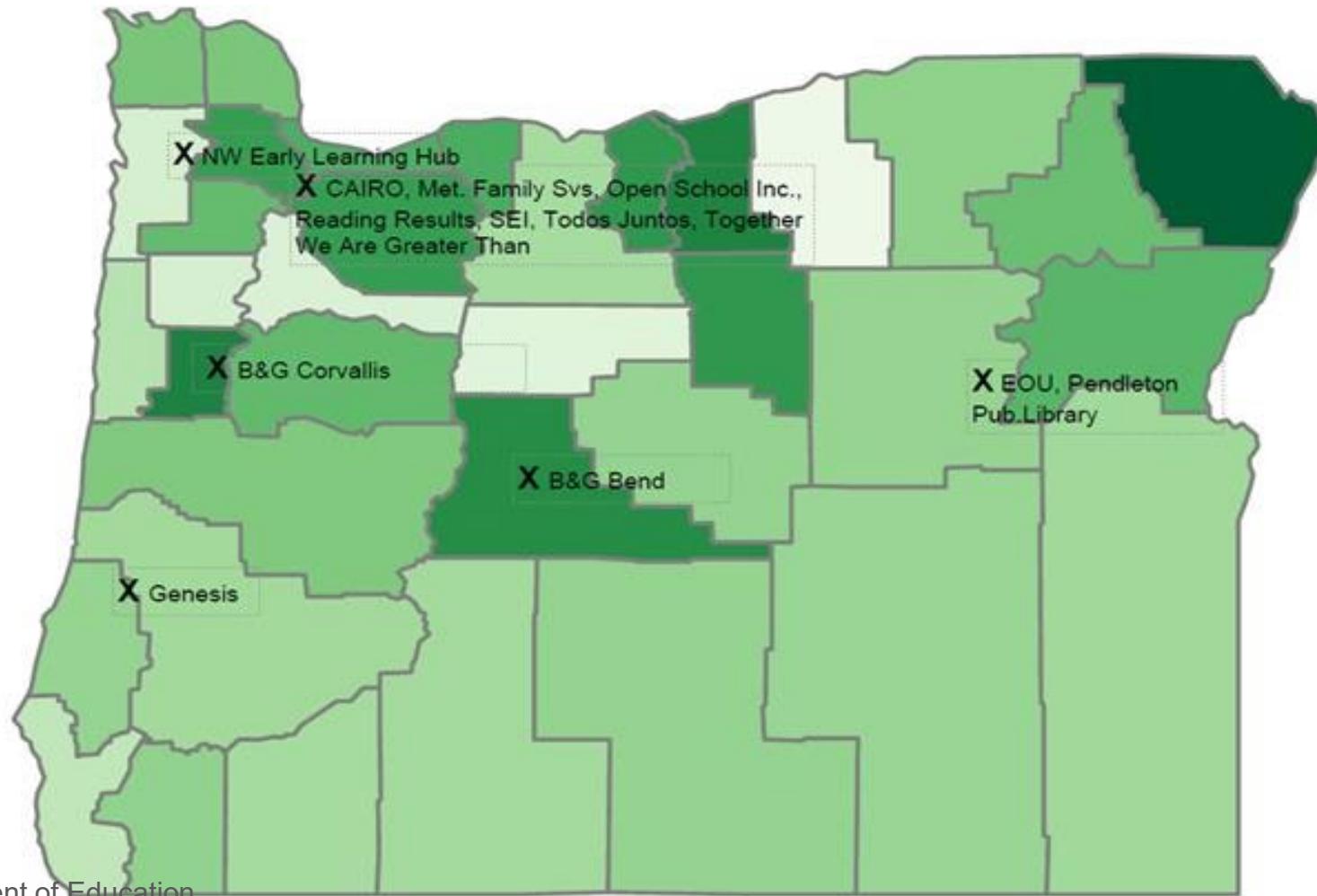
ELCG Cohort 1



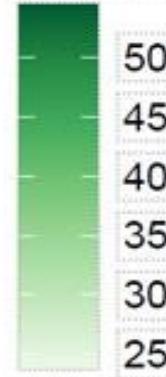
- Cohort 1 just recently launched, funding 13 community organizations - posted to our [Community Grants Website](#).
- All 5 Oregon regions are represented in the cohort
 - 1 Grantee serves the Southwest region (Lane County)
 - 2 Grantees serve the Northwest region (Benton, Clatsop, Columbia, and Tillamook counties)
 - 7 Grantees serve the Metro region (Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington counties)
 - 1 Grantee serves the Central region (Deschutes County)
 - 2 Grantees serve the East region (Baker, Grant, Harney, Malheur, Umatilla, Union and Wallowa counties)

ELA Proficiency Heat Map and Cohort 1

2023-24 3rd Grade English Language Arts Achievement



3rd Grade ELA Achievement Rates



ELCG Cohort 2



- Cohort 2 [Request For Application](#)
 - Launched March 31 OregonBuys
 - Closes May 15
 - Runs concurrently with Cohort 1
- Cohort 2, like Cohort 1, tracks the geographic region as an information item only.
- No additional priority or points were given in either RFA for geographic region location. However, discretion to consider geographic distribution of the funds is built in
- Narrative questions are present that ask for information around historically underserved students and data on literacy proficiency rates in the service area of Grantee

ELCG Cohort 2



- Language directly from the Cohort 2 RFA:
 - Grants will be evaluated with the intent to award at least one (1) application in each Region to expand Program resources for students statewide.
 - Applicants must specify the Region in which they will be delivering services.
 - The Agency reserves the right to not award a grant or grants in a Region if applications are not received for that Region or applications received for that Region do not receive a score within, at least, the top 50% of all scored applications.
 - If the only Applicant for a Region does not receive a score within the top 50% of all scored applications, the Agency may at its sole discretion award a grant to that Applicant in lieu of an award to the lowest scoring application from a Region with multiple applications in the top 50% of all scored applications in order to meet the Agency's stated goals.

Continuous Improvement



- Goal is to more closely align the Governor's achievement goals with the goals of the Community Grants moving forward
- In 2025-2027, ODE will be learning from:
 - Cohorts 1 & 2
 - What works and what doesn't
 - Connections and synergy with districts
 - Community
 - How can community most impact proficiency?
 - What is the current community organization capacity for literacy work?

ODE will then consider needed statutory, OAR and RFA changes

Questions?



- Matthew Garrett – matthew.garrett@ode.oregon.gov
- Torrey Sims – torrey.sims@ode.oregon.gov
- Cynthia Stinson – cynthia.stinson@ode.oregon.gov

Thank You!
