

# STRENGTHENING EARLY LITERACY THROUGH EXPANDED LEARNING IN COMMUNITIES

Community Grants support early literacy across Oregon by investing in family engagement and evidence-based instruction beyond school

[HB 3198](#) established the **Early Literacy Success Community Grants program**, which provides funding for organizations to deliver research-aligned programming during expanded learning time with the goal of improving early literacy outcomes.

**13 grantees**, including community-based organizations, early learning hubs, libraries, and higher education institutions, are providing high-dosage tutoring, family engagement, and staff training to support high-quality literacy instruction.

In the first two quarters of implementation, grantees reported delivering:

- 1. Intensive research-based literacy instruction** including high-dosage tutoring and small group or one-on-one reading sessions
- 2. Instructional support and capacity building** to train and coach tutors and program staff
- 3. Family and community literacy engagement** through workshops, take-home activities, and multilingual materials that support literacy at home
- 4. Community-wide access** via free literacy opportunities in trusted community spaces such as libraries, parks, and after-school programs

## Program Reach to Date (April–September 2025)

**5,098**  
youth served

**7,283**  
families and community members served

**147**  
program staff supported  
(average per quarter)

### Early outcomes reported by grantees include:



**Improved student literacy skills.** Students in high-dosage tutoring showed measurable growth on reading proficiency assessments.



**Increased instructional capacity.** Program staff were better prepared to deliver high-quality literacy instruction due to training in the science of reading.



**Strengthened family involvement.** Families engaged with culturally responsive resources to support literacy growth at home.

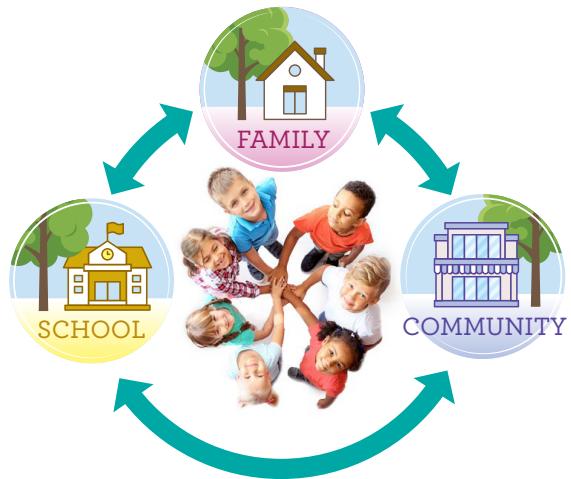


**Enhanced community and school partnerships.** Grantees collaborated with schools and community organizations, strengthening coordination around literacy opportunities.

## Community-based expanded learning strengthens early literacy through family and community partnerships

- Only 40% of Oregon third graders were proficient in English language arts in 2024–25, highlighting gaps in foundational literacy skills that are critical for lifelong learning
- Expanded learning programs strengthen early literacy through evidence-based strategies such as high-dosage tutoring
- Oregon recognizes that partnerships with families and community organizations extend learning beyond the school day
- Coordinated support at home and in the community reinforces literacy development and engagement where students spend the most time

### Oregon's Community Early Literacy Framework



## Oregon invests in expanded learning for early literacy success

Established in 2023 through HB 3198, the Early Literacy Success Initiative was championed by Governor Kotek, legislators, and community partners to improve early literacy statewide. The legislation appropriated more than \$90 million for the 2023–2025 biennium across four grant programs: partnerships with school districts, grants for federally recognized Tribes, Department of Early Learning and Care grants, and Community Grants for local organizations.

The Early Literacy Success Community Grant Program received **\$8 million in the 2023–2025 biennium** to support community-based organizations in:

- Delivering **culturally responsive literacy programs** for children in grades pre-K–3
- Implementing **research-aligned literacy strategies**, including high-dosage tutoring
- Developing programs that **engage families** and caregivers as essential literacy partners
- Providing **professional training and coaching** for direct service staff in early literacy

The Expanded Learning Team began administering grants in March 2025. The current cohort will be supported through the 2025–2027 biennium, and a new cohort begins in 2027.

**These investments set the stage for greater access to high-quality, community-based early literacy programs across Oregon.**

**What's next?** Through 2027, Community Grants will continue to expand and strengthen access to evidence-based early literacy instruction beyond the school day.

To learn more, visit the Early Literacy Success Community Grants webpage.