

Strengthening Early Literacy Through Expanded Learning In Communities



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DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

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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—community-based organizations are providing a wide range of literacy supports, including: high-dosage tutoring, family engagement and workshops, and staff training to support high-quality literacy instruction

Between **October and December 2025**, grantees reported several positive outcomes including:



Higher student engagement and consistent participation in high-dosage tutoring



Increased trust and participation in community-based literacy programs, literacy workshops, and community events



Improved literacy outcomes, with an average gain in literacy skills across grantees of **20.96%**, and one grantee reporting up to a **55% increase in grade-level proficiency**



Strengthened partnerships among schools, families, and community organizations

Program reach (October – December 2025):

3,050

youth served

3,977

families and community
members served

128

program staff supported

MULTIPLE LEVERS FOR EARLY LITERACY GAINS

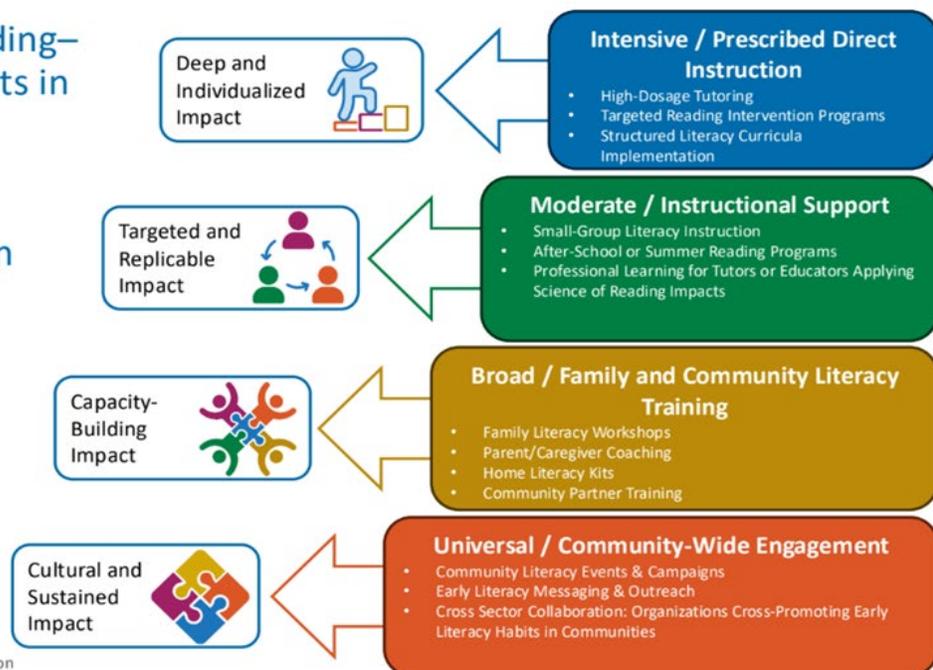
Research continually shows that **consistent participation and instructional time are key factors influencing early literacy outcomes**. High-dosage tutoring (HDT) is widely recognized as one of the most effective strategies for accelerating literacy development for students who need additional support.

While HDT plays a central role in Community Grants programming, the program recognizes that **multiple strategies are necessary to support early literacy development across communities**. Community Grants therefore supports a layered approach that includes:

- High-dosage tutoring
- Small-group literacy instruction
- Family literacy engagement
- Community-based learning opportunities
- Professional training and coaching for literacy staff

Together, these strategies help reinforce literacy development across **school, home, and community settings**.

Science of Reading– Aligned Supports in Community Contexts: Levels of Implementation



Oregon Department of Education



HIGH-DOSAGE TUTORING AS ONE LEVER

One component of Community Grants is the delivery of high-dosage tutoring (HDT) outside of the school day. HDT provides targeted literacy instruction through frequent tutoring sessions delivered in small-group or one-on-one settings. This approach is designed to accelerate reading development for students who benefit from additional, individualized support.

Grantees implement HDT using a range of program models that vary in the number of tutoring cycles, session frequency, and session duration. These variations allow organizations to adapt programming to the needs of their communities while maintaining a focus on sustained, evidence-based literacy instruction.

Across the current cohort of 13 Community Grant organizations, HDT programs collectively delivered hundreds of tutoring sessions during this quarter. Attendance rates remained strong across most programs, and grantees reported measurable improvements in student literacy skills.

- Several early trends are emerging across HDT implementation:
Attendance is the strongest predictor of literacy growth. Students who attend tutoring sessions consistently show the greatest gains in literacy skills.
- Programs with longer tutoring cycles and consistent scheduling report stronger skill development.
- School and community partnerships help strengthen student recruitment and retention, particularly when programs coordinate with schools to identify students with the greatest literacy needs.

While some grantees are still building out their tutoring infrastructure or onboarding tutors, most organizations are now delivering regular HDT sessions across their communities.

Early results demonstrate that **high-dosage tutoring can significantly support literacy skill development**, particularly when students participate consistently and programs provide sustained instructional support over time.

However, HDT represents **one part of a broader literacy strategy**. Because participation in tutoring depends heavily on student attendance and scheduling, Community Grants also



supports complementary strategies—such as family literacy engagement and community-based learning opportunities—to reinforce literacy development beyond tutoring sessions.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: A WIDE-REACHING LEVER

One of those other strategies is through providing community engagement workshops and events for the families and students grantees serve. This is a universal lever that contributes to cultural and sustained impact of literacy gains.

Within these community engagement events and workshops, grantees provide interactive literacy activities, centers, and/or stations. Students and their families are encouraged to participate through every station/center. Stations include literacy games, book kits, and family resources to support reading at home.

Reading nights, cultural celebrations tied to literacy, and reading achievement ceremonies are also held by grantees to highlight student culture and reading achievements as well as a love of reading.

COMMUNITY GRANTS IN ACTION

Across Oregon, community-based organizations are expanding access to literacy instruction beyond the school day and strengthening partnerships that support early literacy development.

Below are examples of how Community Grant organizations are supporting students and families through expanded learning opportunities.

<p><u>Todos Juntos</u></p>  <p>SCAN ME</p>	<p><u>Pendleton Public Library</u></p>  <p>SCAN ME</p>
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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:

<https://www.oregon.gov/ode/earlyliteracysuccessinitiative/pages/communitygrantresources.aspx>