



# Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor



OREGON  
DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION

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## Early Literacy Success Initiative Status Update

### *What's different since July 2023...*

**We are ALL IN to improve early literacy in Oregon:** All eligible districts and public charters have applied for funding, signaling a collective commitment to transform research-aligned, culturally and linguistically responsive, and consistent literacy instruction across the state.

**New investments in schools and upstream improvements to better prepare new teachers:** Significant new state investment (\$90 million) to strengthen literacy instruction in schools, (\$20 million) to provide support for parents and caregivers to be partners at home and in their communities, and additional leveraged resources through matching and braiding funds. Professional learning and coaching resources are already helping school administrators, teachers, and school staff build and use screening and make data-driven decisions. High dosage tutoring and planned summer programs will provide targeted supports for students who will benefit from focused reading and writing instruction. This investment in our schools and communities is paired with upstream work to better prepare elementary principals and teachers to support students' literacy learning through the Governor's [Early Literacy Educator Preparation Council](#).

**More information sharing, support, and guidance about instructional practices that drive student success:** Until the Early Literacy Success Initiative, Oregon's 197 districts had not received much support, guidance, or direction from the State regarding instructional practices on any subject. Districts had to wade through online resources without a lot of hands-on support and assistance to make the resources real and meaningful. Now, ODE has leveled up their ability to support districts in understanding and implementing the research-driven curricula and material options, while also weaving in additional facets of effective and equitable school literacy instruction (e.g., belonging, building on oral language skills, foundational skills, and strategies for reaching different types of learners).

**Reducing barriers for small and rural districts:** ODE and the Governor's Office worked with education service districts, education partners, and the legislature to reduce barriers for small and rural schools with a nearly \$5 million investment per biennium to ensure Education Service Districts (ESDs) can access state resources in partnership their local districts, including the Early Literacy Success School Grant. Additionally, a minimum dollar amount for the School Grant allows even small districts to have enough resources to hire a teacher to support students' literacy.

**Data-Driven Decisions:** ODE has more data about how we are teaching reading and writing in schools than ever before. This helps us know where to target additional resources and technical assistance to close opportunity gaps and increase early literacy outcomes for all students.

## *What's happening now...*

School Grant: ODE is reviewing all 250 applications and will be complete by early April. There are 30 reviewers at ODE who have received 9 hours of training prior to application review. There are 2 reviewers assigned per application and some may receive additional reviewers. The reviews take 2-4 hours per application to ensure it aligns with the allowable uses specified in legislation and guidance. The ODE Literacy Team is offering technical support for applicants who have revisions required for their plan to meet the legislative requirements of HB 3198. Additionally, ODE is investing ESSER funds to develop Early Literacy Framework professional development, including a website with modules and a resource library. REL Northwest and ODE have a [multi-year early partnership](#) to build ODE's capacity to use research and evaluate implementation.

Community Grant: With the recent approval of funds in the short session, ODE has partnered with Oregon Kitchen Table to begin community engagement to inform an Early Literacy Community Framework. The Framework is the backbone of the Initiative to ensure that instruction and services build consistency across how we support students' literacy development. This spring and summer, ODE will conduct a Request for Application process to implement this Framework with home-, tribe-, or school-based literacy strategies.

Tribal Grant: With the recent approval of funds in the short session, ODE will develop grant agreements with each of the 9 federally recognized tribes and work with tribes to co-develop plans for their nations that are aligned with the allowable uses (family engagement, language revitalization, professional development for staff)

Birth through Five Plan & Fund: Pending approval of funding, DELC will release a Request for Application with Early Childhood Equity Fund grantees, amend early learning hub agreements for increased Kindergarten Partnership Innovation funds, select and award grantees, and conduct targeted community engagement to develop the Birth through Five Plan by December 2024.

Early Literacy Educator Preparation Council: The Council developed the first phase of their three-phase recommendation process. Currently, they are receiving feedback from the public and educator preparation programs on the [draft standards](#) that TSPC uses to approve programs.

## *What's next...*

Sustainable funding conversation (late March-June): We have an opportunity to make data-driven decisions to develop a full funding proposal for future biennia.

- What is the appropriate reserve amount and growth targets for the Fund for Student Success (CAT)? How might we balance the need for stability and accountability with the purposes of Education Stability and Rainy-Day Funds?
- What are the appropriate triggers for using the Fund for Student Success reserves?
- How many districts are using early literacy curriculum that is not currently aligned with research and how much would it cost to get them all to research aligned curriculum and professional learning resources within the next two years?
- What would it cost to develop technical assistance centers to support all teachers in all public elementary schools? Centers would model the full Oregon Early Literacy Framework and demonstrate data-driven instruction to successfully close opportunity gaps. What would a two-biennium phase-in to all schools look like, starting with schools who need the most targeted support?
- What resources are needed to implement the Early Literacy Educator Preparation Council's recommendations?

### **Oregon Department of Education**

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