Background

The pandemic has had an immense and disruptive impact on Oregon’s children. Additionally, COVID-19 has disproportionately impacted Black, American Indian/Alaska Native, Latino/a/x, and Pacific Islander communities; students experiencing disabilities; and students and families navigating poverty. Students, families and educators have been resilient in the face of the many challenges presented by the pandemic. Nevertheless, many students have experienced unfinished learning and inconsistent connections with their peers. Many students also continue to lack basic needs such as food, shelter, wellness and support for mental, social and emotional health.

To address these needs, House Bill 5042A authorizes the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to expend funds in the 2019-21 biennium from the Summer Learning Program Account for the purposes outlined in the accompanying Preliminary Budget Report. Specifically, the budget report directs $195.6 million General Fund and $10 million Federal Funds in grant funding be made available to participating school districts for academic summer school to support high school students facing academic credit loss, summer enrichment programs, and wrap-around child care.

Timeline

ODE’s goal is to make these funds and, ultimately, the services they provide to students, as accessible as possible to all districts, regardless of size. Our timeline is as follows:

- **April 6, 2021**: ODE will release a statewide communication on program summaries, timelines, and district allocation.
- **April 9, 2021**: ODE will complete draft program guidance.
- **April 16, 2021**: ODE will facilitate partner feedback and engagement sessions to solicit thoughts, concerns, and questions from districts and charter schools.
- **April 23, 2021**: ODE will review feedback collected, update program guidance where needed, and finalize guidance.
- **April 26, 2021 to May 10, 2021**: ODE will initiate an application process that enables school districts to determine if they voluntarily wish to participate in all or some of the grant.
programs. School districts and/or charter schools must complete application to participate in programs.

- **May 12, 2021**: ODE must report back to Legislature on program guidance process and planned district participation (preliminary). If accepted, the Legislature will release funding to ODE to make grant awards.

- **May 16, 2021 to May 31, 2021**: ODE will begin executing Grant Agreements with school districts and/or charter schools.

**Purpose**

The Summer Academic Support Grants provide opportunities for all eligible recipients to receive grant funding to offer summer school programs for high school students to acquire academic credits needed to stay on-track for graduation. The purpose of this program is to engage with students on-site and in-person. This program is designed to redress the disruptions caused to students by distance learning for the past school year. Best practices for districts would be to have staff and facilities open to facilitate in-person instruction and not rely on distance learning models.

**Funding Availability**

Funding for Summer Academic Support Grants provides resources that support 75 percent of the estimated cost of providing services. The estimated cost is actual school year’s expenditures for teaching and learning cost, as well as additional estimates for transportation and inflationary cost. The total estimated cost is $95,859,621 as is based on serving up to 50% of the high school population. Of this amount, $71,894,716 would be provided through Summer Academic Support Grants.

- **Match Requirement**
  
  Eligible recipients must agree to cover 25% of their total program costs with other recipient resources. These funding sources may include any local, state, federal, and/or private resources allocated to the recipient and must be used for the same Eligible Uses of Funds outlined below.

- **District Allocations**
  
  We have provided a separate table that details the allocations for this grant. This table includes district and charter school allocations as well as the matching requirements for each district and charter school.
Eligible Applicants

School Districts and Public Charter Schools are eligible to receive a Summer Enrichment Grant. School districts are strongly encouraged to apply on behalf of their charter schools. Should a district opt to not participate or is unable to apply on behalf of a charter school, then the charter school may apply separately. Education Service Districts may apply on behalf of a school district or consortia of districts. Similarly, multiple districts may apply together for a grant.

Eligible Uses of Funds

Recipients may use the funds for expenses related to a high school summer academic program that fall into one of the following categories:

- **Teachers and Support Personnel:** All personnel related costs to staffing summer academic programs.
- **Curriculum, Supplies, and Technology:** All expenses related to providing curriculum, technology, and other supplies related to a summer academic program.
- **COVID-19 related Expenses:** All expenses related to meeting COVID-19 safety standards for providing on-site, in-person summer academic programs.
- **Third-Party Contracts:** All expenses related to contracting with third parties to provide summer academic programs.
- **Student Expenses:** All expenses related to providing incentives and removing barriers to student participation in summer academic programs.
- **Facility related Expenses:** All expenses related to providing facilities that will support and house summer academic programs.
- **Transportation Expenses:** All expenses for transportation related to providing summer academic programs.
- **Snacks and Meals:** All expenses related to providing nutritious snacks and meals to participants in summer academic programs.
- **Administrative Expenses:** Recipients may use 5% of the grant funds for administrative expenses related to providing summer academic programs.

Services offered for high school recovery may be offered through existing recipients, programs (HSS or SSA), or community programming as an extension and/or enhancement of services.
**Expenditure Period**

Grant funding is available for any eligible use of funding from the period May 1, 2021 to September 30, 2021.

**Grant Procedures**

To participate in the Summer Academic Support Grant, all recipients must submit an application by May 10, 2021, that identifies the percentage of high school students the program intends to serve and a brief synopsis of what programs or strategies will be used to provide opportunities for each participating student.

Once applications are accepted, recipients must enter into a grant agreement with ODE that outlines eligible uses, reporting requirements and program requirements for grant funding. Grant agreements will need to be signed by June 10, 2021.

Upon execution of each agreement, ODE will release 25% of the grant award to allow for initial funding to start up the program. Every draw of funding thereafter will be processed upon request for reimbursement of funds.

**Program Requirements**

All recipients participating in this grant program shall:

- Comply with Ready Schools Safe Learners Guidance (RSSL) for programs conducted at school district facilities as follows:
  - RSSL Section 0:
    - Public schools may halt or transition a portion or all of the summer learning program to Comprehensive Distance Learning when responding in partnership with a local public health authority or the Oregon Health Authority to control active transmission of COVID-19 in the program.
    - If your On-Site summer program is located in a county that does not meet the advisory metrics; that is, an elementary school in a county that is not in the On-Site or Hybrid (green) row or the Elementary On-Site or Hybrid (yellow) row or a middle or high school in a county that is not in the On-Site or Hybrid (green) row (Section 0b); the school must offer access to on-site testing for symptomatic students and staff identified on campus as well as those with known exposures to individuals with COVID. This resource is available to all schools in Oregon. See guidance from the Oregon Health Authority.
All public and private schools are required to keep their Operational Blueprint up-to-date on ODE’s website and to submit weekly “Status Reports” that provide essential information regarding how many students are served in person in the implementation of this metrics framework.

- All requirements in RSSL Section 1.
- All requirements in parts 2c-2o RSSL Section 2.
- All requirements in RSSL Section 3.

- Comply with OHA youth program guidance for onsite academic programs occurring at a third-party site.
- Comply with ELD requirements for any childcare provided in relation to summer academic programs.
- Prioritize students who have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic.
- Prioritize students who have the most unfinished credits.
- Provide summer academic programs primarily in person.
- Districts that receive Title VI funds must consult with their tribes as they set up this program.

**Reporting Requirements**

All funding for the grant must be accounted for separately by recipients. No later than November 1, 2021, recipient will provide a final report that includes the following;

- Final financial report of all eligible grant expenditures (including match), including any final request for funding, or if applicable, any return of funding.
- Financial Reporting will require districts to report per Appendix G of the Program Budget and Accounting Manual (PBAM) which will allow us to track new program expenses for reporting purposes.
- Final Program Output and Outcome reports that shows:
  - Total number of students served by grade
  - Total number of students that successfully recovered credits through the grant
  - Number of credits earned
  - Subject Areas recovered