

ND CLIMBS Legendary Learners B-5 Funding Opportunity 2024-2029

The North Dakota Department of Public Instruction (NDDPI) Office of Academic Support invites you to submit a **North Dakota Comprehensive Literacy Improvement through Measured Building Systems (ND CLIMBS)** Grant proposal for elementary public schools.

Updates about program requirements and more detailed information can be found at the following link:

<https://www.nd.gov/dpi/education-programs/literacy/nd-climbs>.

Program Summary

The ND CLIMBS project aims to establish and sustain collaborative conditions for delivering high-quality, evidence-based literacy instruction across North Dakota, focusing on four key goals:

1. Establish systems to sustain collaborative conditions for the delivery of high-quality, evidence-based literacy instruction.
2. Equip administrative building instructional leaders (ABIL) to create and sustain collaborative conditions for educators to deliver high-quality, evidence-based literacy instruction.
3. Support educators in delivering high-quality, evidence-based literacy instruction to students.
4. Provide high-quality, evidence-based literacy instruction to all students to achieve literacy skills proficiency.

The objectives include:

- Support school teams in planning and managing effective literacy systems to achieve student proficiency.
- Offer professional learning opportunities for administrative leaders to improve ELA leadership practices.
- Offer high-quality professional development aligned with the Science of Reading for educators to enhance instructional practices.
- Contract with external vendors to support educators in delivering high-quality instruction.

This project addresses the four competitive priorities of the CLSD program:

- Priority 1: Enhancing teacher education and student placement tools among institutions.
- Priority 2: Addressing pandemic-related educational setbacks, particularly for underserved students.
- Priority 3: Promoting educational equity and resource access across all education levels.
- Priority 4: Building educator capacity through professional development and supporting students through key educational transitions. The project also meets the invitational priority by designing projects that support effective transition practices for students moving through early educational stages.

Application Information

The following documents and resources can be found on the [ND CLIMBS](#) webpage.

Application Platform

Applicants will complete an online application, which will be released on January 27, 2025. This form can be found on the above website.

Application Webinar

A webinar regarding the online application process will be presented on January 28, 2025, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. central time. This webinar will be recorded and available on the [ND CLIMBS](#) webpage. [Link to attend webinar](#).

Online Guidance

The ND CLIMBS website, linked above, will host documents related to the application, including a Q&A resource.

Application Review and Selection

Each application will undergo an independent review process to determine the relevance and quality of the information provided and the ability of the applicant to implement the program elements. The application has a possible score of 100 points. Those scoring the highest will be considered for an award, with 15% of all ND CLIMBS subgrantee funds going to Early Childhood programming, 40% to elementary schools, and 40% to secondary schools, including middle and high schools. Elementary and secondary awards were selected in a prior competition.

The ND CLIMBS Legendary Learners B-5 Scoring Tool provides detailed information about the application scoring considerations.

Application Schedule

The following is the estimated application schedule that will be followed.

Application Webinar	January 28, 2025 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Central Time Link to Join Meeting
Applications Due (revised date)	March 19, 2025 @ 11:59:59 p.m. Central Time
Independent Review and Validation of Scores	March 10, 2025 – March 31, 2025
Approval and Notice of Selection	April 4, 2025

Application Specifications

Any North Dakota Local Education Agency (LEA) may apply. Applications will be completed at the elementary school building level. Applicants who serve a high percentage of disadvantaged children will receive priority points. The [ND CLIMBS School Needs Rank List 2024](#) indicates priority points available for each school building.

Applicants will be required to make the following assurances:

- Prioritize disadvantaged children.
- Supplement, not supplant.
- Conduct a local needs assessment for the application process
- Cooperate and comply with state and national literacy evaluations, including responding appropriately to performance feedback and engaging in a continuous improvement process.
- The business manager will engage in grant process training and updates.
- Administer North Dakota Academic Progression of Learning & Understanding of Students (ND A+) interim fall assessment to incoming kindergartners.
- Maintain Legendary Learner Coordinator participation in the State cohort.
- Develop and demonstrate implementation of a school readiness transition plan.
- Submit annual review and reapplication documentation.
- Allocate reasonable funds for personnel, consulting contracts, supplies, professional development, travel, etc., according to the needs and goals outlined in the program narrative and account for all grant requirements.
- Ensure or work toward aligning the K-3 reading curriculum with the requirements of the North Dakota Century Code including the removal of contrary practices.

Contact Information

The primary point of contact for this application process is Taylor Olsen, Project Coordinator, Office of Academic Support. In correspondence, please cc Brenda Ehrmantraut, Assistant Director.

Project Coordinator: Taylor Olsen

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Project Director: Brenda Ehrmantraut

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Submission Information and Deadline for Receipt of Applications

The application and attachments must be submitted online by March 19, 2025, at 11:59:59 p.m. Central Time. Failure to apply before the deadline may result in the application being rejected.

Questions

All questions must be in writing and directed to the primary point of contact, [Taylor Olsen](#).

If the question is answered by directing it to a specific section of the application, then we may answer it over the telephone. Other questions may be more complex and require a written amendment. The point of contact will make this determination. The department considers oral communication unofficial and non-binding.

Amendments

If an amendment to this Funding Opportunity is issued, it will be posted on the [ND CLIMBS](#) webpage.