

ND CLIMBS FAQ

LEGENDARY LEARNERS B-5 FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

This FAQ is based on questions the NDDPI has received regarding the ND CLIMBS Legendary Learners grant. If you have any questions not addressed in this document, please email

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Updated questions and answers are presented in green ink.

Use of Funds

Personnel

Q: Can this funding be used for literacy personnel's salaries?

A: This grant can fund the community coordinator and provide stipends to accomplish the grant's goals. All expenses must follow the supplement, not supplant rules.

Preschool

Q: Can this funding be used for preschool?

A: There are ways to use the funds within a preschool. The grant usually doesn't offer adequate funding to develop or staff a preschool. More realistically, the funds might support programming improvement through educator professional development. Expanding an existing program to increase the number of children being served may be possible.

Application

Eligible Entities

Q: Who is eligible to apply for this grant opportunity?

A: This funding opportunity is open to all public elementary buildings. Early learning programs can partner in this work but are not eligible to apply.

Q: Can a district submit one application for all its buildings?

A: No. Each building must apply for a grant. This process requires each building principal to submit a Letter of Application to demonstrate interest and commitment to the grant goals and activities. The district officials are involved in the application process through the superintendent's approval document.

Budget

Q: How do applicants submit a budget request for this grant?

A: Applicants will not submit a budget. A set amount will be awarded to each grantee. The approximate amount is anticipated to be \$110,000 annually for four years, with the required payment of \$5,000 annually in Coordinator Network fees paid to the Network contractor.

Q: Will awarded schools have any funds to make spending decisions?

A: Yes. The only required expense is the \$5,000 Coordinator Network fee annually. All other funds may be used to achieve the grant goals, including the school's choice of employing or compensating the identified coordinator.

Q: Does this grant allow the carryover of unused funds from year to year?

A: Yes.

Principal Letter of Application

Q: If we know that the principal in the building is retiring or leaving, how can we address the Principal Letter of Application component competitively?

A: In this situation, a district leader should write the letter and include an explanation of why a principal is not submitting the letter. It should include information about how the work will be guaranteed during the hiring process and supported throughout their initial years as building principal.

Other Grant Requirements

Administrative Building Instructional Lead Role

Q: Could the instructional leader also be an instructional coach?

A: No. This leader must be a principal or vice principal with authority in the building.

North Dakota Academic Progression of Learning & Understanding of Students (NDA-PLUS or NDA+)

Q: Is NDA+ required three times per year for this grant?

A: No. The early learning grant only requires the fall assessment for kindergarteners. We'll be watching this metric over the life of the grant because the goal at this level is to improve opportunities for disadvantaged birth to age five learners. As schools and communities increase their focused literacy support in this age band, the number of kindergarteners entering school with on-target readiness skills will increase.

K-3 Reading Curriculum Alignment

Q: If our school has already received approval on our annual STARS Reading Curriculum and Professional Development report, does this indicate that we are aligned with the law as required for this grant?

A: The reading report alone will not be the determinate. All schools receive an approval of 1, 2, or 3 years. The State then provides guidance on what those year assignments indicate. You can view a Report Review webinar that explains the report scoring on the [ND Science of Reading page](#). This doesn't necessarily mean your school complies with the North Dakota Century Code. As a part of the Needs Assessment Narrative, we are asking for a more in-depth explanation of your K-3 reading curriculum to determine alignment and progress toward it.

Legendary Learner Literacy Coordinator and Cohort

Q: If we already pay someone for a similar role out of a federal grant, is that considered supplanting?

A: No. You could continue funding that person's salary out of this grant.

Q: What will the Network cohort's role be in supporting this grant?

A: This cohort will be facilitated through a contracted service provider. That contractor will facilitate regular bimonthly meetings for the coordinators to collaborate, share resources, and learn about school transition and community outreach. The Network aims to help coordinators lead their local team in accessing and sharing early learning awareness, resources, and opportunities to improve the transitional stage into kindergarten.