

ND CLIMBS FAQ

Legendary Learners B-5 Funding Opportunity 2

This FAQ is based on questions received regarding the ND CLIMBS Legendary Learners grant. If you have any questions not addressed in this document, please email Taylor Olsen at tolsen@nd.gov.

Use of Funds

Personnel

Q: Can Legendary Learners 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 rules for supplement, not supplant.

Preschool

Q: Can this funding be used for preschool?

A: There are ways to use the funds within a preschool. The grant typically doesn't provide sufficient funding to 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 served may be possible.

Application

Eligible Entities

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

A: This funding opportunity is open to public elementary schools within eligible entities. Early learning programs can partner in this work; however, they are not eligible to apply for funding independently.

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, demonstrating interest and commitment to the grant's 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 annual amount is anticipated to be \$105,000 for four years, with a required annual payment of \$5,000 in Coordinator Network fees.

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

A: Yes. The only required expense is the annual \$5,000 Coordinator Network fee. 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 the 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 a 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 Legendary Learners Grant only requires the fall assessment for kindergartners. We'll be monitoring this metric throughout the grant's duration, as the goal at this level is to enhance opportunities for disadvantaged learners from birth to age five. As schools and communities increase their focused literacy support in this age band, the number of kindergartners 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 determinant. All schools receive approval for 1, 2, or 3 years. The State then provides guidance on what those yearly 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 part of the Needs Assessment Narrative, we are requesting a more in-depth explanation of your K-3 reading curriculum to determine its alignment and progress toward it.

Legendary Learner Literacy Coordinator and Cohort

Q: If we have already paid someone for a similar role from a federal grant, is that considered supplanting?

A: No. You could continue to fund that person's salary from this grant.

Q: How will the coordinator's network support the cohort through 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 teams in accessing and sharing early learning awareness, resources, and opportunities to improve the transition into kindergarten.

Q: What is the role of the Legendary Learner Literacy Coordinator?

A: The description is as follows: The coordinator will lead the development of a School Readiness Transition Plan; cultivate community partnerships; coordinate with school leaders to align school readiness expectations with language and literacy instructional practices; plan literacy-focused events for families and children birth to five; support the expansion of early learning opportunities for at-risk students in the community; and facilitate meetings between school staff and community partners to form a School Readiness Team. Coordinators will also participate in the statewide Coordinator Network, engaging in evidence-based professional learning, sharing resources, and collaborating with peers to address problems of practice.