

## **ND CLIMBS**

### **Local Needs Assessment Narrative Template**

(Maximum of 20 pages total)

Applicants are invited to use this outline to plan the Needs Assessment Narrative section of the ND CLIMBS application. It is intended to serve as a resource, and this document should **not** be submitted as the final narrative. As you answer each of the prompts below, keep in mind the guided directives from which the assessment will be scored (Rubric linked):

- Your school's current reality
- Your school's current needs and goals
- How ND CLIMBS funds and activities can help address your school's needs and goals\*

#### **I. Introduction and Overview**

- Provide a brief overview of your school and district context, including demographics, literacy priorities, and alignment with ND CLIMBS goals.
- List data sources used for this needs assessment (e.g., NDA+ results, local benchmarks, surveys, etc.).

#### **II. Student Academic Profile (5 points)**

- Summarize your building's most recent ELA proficiency data and trends across grade levels or subgroups.
- Describe your at-risk student groups and note any performance gaps.
- Highlight grade-level, skill, or standards-based concerns influencing literacy performance.

#### **III. Professional Learning for Principals and Educators (15 points)**

- Discuss professional learning activities related to literacy or the Science of Reading completed by staff and leadership.
- Identify areas where additional professional learning is needed, what goals your school has, and how the ND CLIMBS funds and activities can support this work.
- Describe your school's commitment to grant-required professional learning and networked improvement work.

\* Applicants should be aware that any reference to funding activities made in the application will still need to go through an approval process if awarded. An awarded application is not approval for all activities mentioned.

#### **IV. Guaranteed and Viable ELA Curriculum (10 points)**

- If Elementary: Describe your current ELA curriculum and its alignment with the Science of Reading. Include gaps, staff knowledge, and, if needed, plans for full alignment by 2027–28 (with funding sources).
- If Secondary: Describe your current ELA curriculum, cross-content literacy practices, and any gaps or needs.

#### **V. Assessment and Intervention Plan (15 points)**

- Describe how your school assesses ELA proficiency and monitors progress for all students.
- Outline intervention processes for students below grade level. Include both measures that are taken during the regular school day and any additional offerings provided after school or during the summer.
- Identify areas for improvement in assessment or intervention implementation, the goals your school has in this area, and how ND CLIMBS funds and activities can support these efforts.

#### **VI. Family Engagement (10 points)**

- Describe current evidence-based practices for engaging families in literacy success.
- Identify challenges or areas for growth in family engagement.
- Outline the steps the school needs to take to strengthen family engagement in literacy and how ND CLIMBS funds and activities can support those efforts.

#### **VII. Grade-Level Transition Plans (15 points)**

- Describe your approach to supporting students transitioning into or out of this building.
- Explain how staff, families, and external partners are involved in grade-level transition processes.
- Identify grade-level transition-related challenges or opportunities for improvement, the goals your school has in this area, and how ND CLIMBS funds and activities can help to support these efforts.

#### **VIII. Summary of Key Findings**

- Summarize the most critical needs identified through this assessment and how they position your school for literacy improvement through ND CLIMBS.