
Office of Governor Tina Kotek

Early Literacy Success Initiative

Joint Ways and Means Committee
February 4, 2025



What & who you'll hear from today

Education Priority Initiatives: Early Literacy Success (Governor's Office)

- Johnna N. Timmes, Education Initiative Director

Birth through Five Literacy (DELIC)

- Alyssa Chatterjee, Director

Community, Tribal & School Grants (ODE)

- Dr. Charlene Williams, Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction and ODE Director

Governor's Office Education Priorities

- CSL - SSF calculation (HB 2140) → *Accountability*
- *Summer and After School Learning*
- ***Early Literacy***

Early Literacy Success Initiative

HB 3198
2023- 2025

Early Literacy
School Grant
(ODE)

Early Literacy
Community &
Tribal Grants
(ODE)

Birth through Five
Literacy Plan &
Fund
(DELC)

Early Literacy
Increased Funding Opportunity-
2025- 2027 GRB

\$127 Million

To maintain and
strengthen the previous
early literacy investments

The Oregon Early Literacy Continuum...



Birth Through Five Literacy Plan

A comprehensive, equitable framework for
improving early literacy outcomes for Oregon's
youngest children



2024-2025 Funding Approach



Leveraged existing program infrastructure so funds reach community quickly.

Kindergarten Partnership & Innovation

\$4.7 million

- - Professional development (PD) for the early learning workforce focused on developmentally appropriate literacy and literacy supports
 - Parent engagement and supports to promote literacy at home

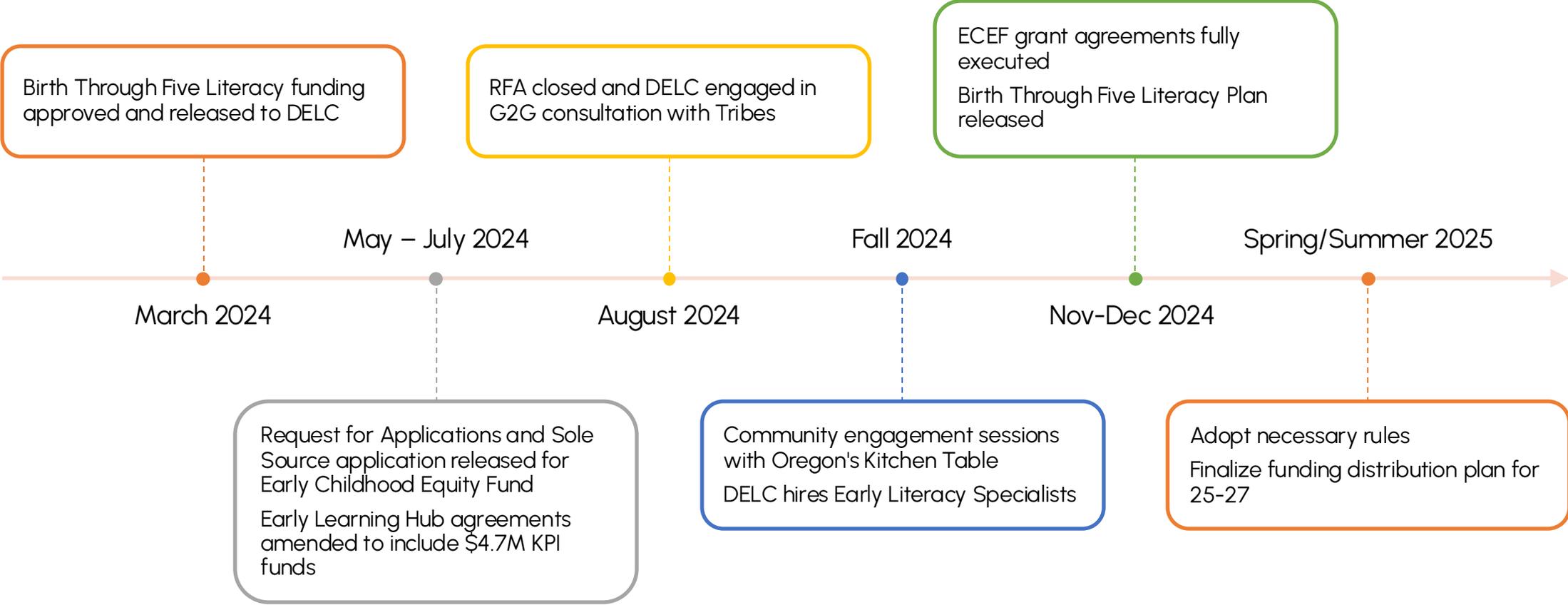
Early Childhood Equity Fund

Birth Through Five Literacy

\$4.7 million

- - Early Childhood Equity Fund eligibility
 - Parent engagement and supports to promote literacy at home
 - Culturally-relevant PD for early educators
 - Engagement to identify community-specific literacy gaps

Birth Through Five Literacy Implementation





Accomplishments

One-time funds

- Forty-one organizations applied for ECEF BT5 funds, 27 were awarded
- Engaged in government-to-government consultation with the nine federally recognized Tribes within Oregon's borders, resulting in eight Tribes participating in non-competitive funding opportunity
- BT5 Funding allocated to 16 Hubs through KPI

Community Engagement

- Launched Birth Through Five Literacy page on DELC's website
- Completed DELC-lead community engagement and partnered with Oregon's Kitchen Table, over 400 participants statewide

Literacy Plan

- Birth Through Five Literacy Plan submitted to Legislature

Early Childhood Equity Fund Grants

- **Total Amount:** \$4.7 million
- **Eligible:** Existing, new grantees; Tribal Nations
- **Funding Mechanism:**
- Request for Applications
- Sole source application for Tribal Nations
- **Maximum Award Amount:** \$200,000

Activities:

- Develop and/or deliver early literacy resources and materials through parenting education and parent-child interaction activities
- Develop and/or deliver culturally relevant early literacy training and professional development activities for both early childhood and early grade educators
- Conduct community engagement activities to identify community-specific gaps in early literacy activities to further inform the 2024 Birth Through Five Literacy plan
- Develop and expand language revitalization efforts for federally recognized Indian Tribes in Oregon



ECEF Birth Through Five Literacy Plan



work *October – December 2024*

Number of families participated in early literacy engagement activities and/or received resources	• 1200+
Number of culturally relevant early literacy resources distributed	• 1000+
Number of early literacy family engagement activities	• 200+
Number of educators, providers, staff who received culturally relevant early literacy training	• 140+
Number of early literacy trainings offered	• 22
Number of early literacy community engagement activities held	• 14

**These totals are estimates subject to shift as all reports not yet received for reporting period*



Tribal Nations

Tribal Grant Activities

- Percentage of Tribes* participating in each activity:
- Language Revitalization and Preservation: 88%
- Professional Development: 75%
- Early Literacy Resources: 100%
- Community Engagement: 50%
- Develop Early Literacy Plan: 38%

Language Revitalization and Preservation

- Books and curriculum in Native languages
- Recordings/Audiobooks, digital/visual supports
- Educational Materials (flashcards, posters, workbooks, labels for classroom and home use)
- Community events and engagement promoting language learning
- Staff training to integrate language into programming

Professional Development

- Training for Child Care, Head Start and Early Head Start staff and parents/caregivers
- LETRS, Orton-Gillingham Phonological Awareness, Conscious Discipline training
- Workshops focusing on early literacy development from cultural lens, inclusive of tribal elders and culture and language specialists; build staff proficiency; contractors to support development of language curriculum

Early Literacy Resources

- Children's books about traditional stories
- Books in heritage languages and/or dual language, including infant-toddler books
- Reading corners in preschool classrooms
- Classroom materials (flashcards, storyboard, smart boards, games, audio supportive devices)
- Providing heritage language books to Little Free Libraries and tribal members outside local area; mailing literacy kits

Community Engagement

- Engagement with local school district, parent groups, education committee, and community members
- Focus groups, surveys, and meetings with elders, tribal families, and educators to guide program development
- Family Literacy Nights, providing literacy-based games and other supports for at-home language learning and literacy

Develop Early Literacy Plan

- Creating a plan which incorporates language, culture, and heritage
- Staff intern as part of plan development team to have language and cultural coverage in the early childhood program
- Focus on cultural relevance and educational outcomes

***8/9 Tribes have accepted Early Literacy Funds, for a total amount of \$1.5M, representing 89% of Tribes and 32% of Early Literacy Funding (of the funds that were dedicated to ECEF which was 50% of DELC's total funding for the 23-25 biennium).**

Kindergarten Readiness Partnership & Innovation Program (KPI)

Amount: \$4.7 million

Eligible: Early Learning Hubs

Funding Mechanism: Distribution Formula

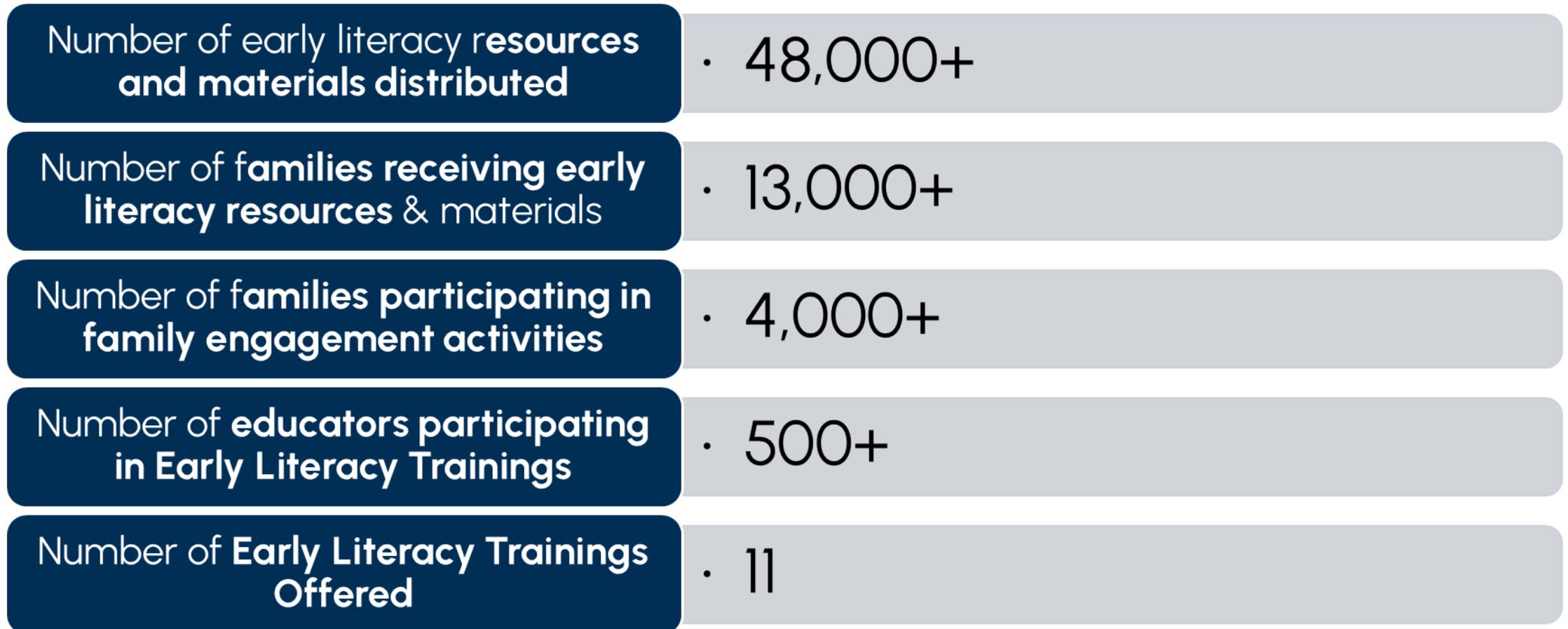
Activities:

Establish or expand the following:

- Early literacy-focused professional development opportunities for early learning and early grade educators;
- Parent engagement activities, including book distribution in multiple languages focused on early literacy development;
- Little Free Libraries in communities that have been historically underserved;
- Establishment or expansion of regional partnerships with organizations to increase access to books.

KPI Birth Through Five Literacy Plan work

July – September 2024



**These totals are estimates subject to shift as all reports not yet received for reporting period*

The background of the slide features a large, faint, circular seal of the State of Oregon. The seal contains an eagle with wings spread, a ship, a plow, and a sheaf of wheat, surrounded by the text "STATE OF OREGON" and the year "1859".

2025-2027 Funding Distribution Plans

Grounded in Research and Community Engagement



KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Providers want more professional development in early literacy, and it should be integrated into Social Emotional Learning (SEL), Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math (STEAM), inclusion, and multilingual learning.
- Providers want to connect with families and provide better literacy support in their home languages.
- Providers need culturally relevant resources and flexible funding for literacy spaces and community needs.
- Challenges with staff capacity, turnover, and geographic access is impacting programs' ability to promote early literacy with families and participate in early literacy trainings.
- There is a desire for deeper understanding of early literacy milestones for children birth to five.
- Book distribution programs are successful but limited, especially for bilingual and multilingual books.
- Partnerships, especially with public libraries, are crucial for early literacy support.
- There is a desire to learn how to incorporate easy to implement early literacy strategies as part of families daily routine.

Overall, **more than four hundred** individuals participated in the engagement statewide



Key Components of the Plan

The **Birth Through Five Literacy Plan** has three key goals informed by community input, which also serve as the plan's components:

Goal 1: Expand Culturally Specific Early Literacy Programs

- Provide professional training and culturally relevant resources
- Fund programs to develop and distribute home language literacy materials
- Support workforce with literacy pathways and increased access to professional development

Goal 2: Promote the Capacity of Programs that Engage Families in Early Literacy

- Strengthen connections between DELC and libraries
- Increase access to book distribution and culturally responsive family education
- Elevate family voice to shape policies and investments

Goal 3: Support Language Revitalization Efforts for Tribal Nations

- Consult with the Nine Federally Recognized Tribal Nations within Oregon's borders to develop resources and expand language preservation efforts
- Respect Tribal sovereignty through non-competitive funding processes

2025-2027 Funding for Implementation

The 2025-2027 Governor's Recommended Budget (GRB) allocates approximately \$22 million for the Birth Through Five Literacy Plan (BT5 Plan) implementation.

\$2.2 million for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library.

\$0.3 million for updates to the Early Learning Kindergarten Guidelines.

Initial & Growth Phases: Foundational Strategies for 25-27

Goal 1: Expand Culturally Specific Early Literacy Programs

- **With current funding:**
 - Update Early Learning & Kindergarten Guidelines
 - Increase access to culturally responsive family education
- **GRB Funding:**
 - Strengthen Culturally specific programs
 - Expand access to professional development
 - Home Language Literacy Materials
 - Create literacy specialization pathway

Goal 2: Promote the Capacity of Programs that Engage Families in Early Literacy

- **With Current Funding:**
 - Enhance home visiting program
 - Strengthen Book Distribution
 - Develop and expand training
- **With GRB:**
 - Strengthen connections with the library system

Goal 3: Support Language Revitalization Efforts for Tribal Nations

- Non-competitive funding for Tribes

Ongoing Strategies



- Collaboration with the Oregon Department of Education to support the Early Literacy Success Initiative
- Create a structure to elevate family voice and decision making
- Evaluation of initial implementation impacts
- Establishing continuous quality improvement cycle

Key Funding Areas

Centering Tribal Sovereignty \$3.6M

- Expanding culturally specific programs, promoting family engagement in early literacy, and supporting tribal language revitalization.

Mechanism: Non-competitive funding application

Ready to Read Program \$800K

- Strengthen collaboration between DELC and libraries.
- Increase book distribution and culturally responsive family education.

Mechanism: Inter-agency Agreement with State Library

Workforce Supports \$1.3M

- Early Learning Kindergarten Guidelines (ELKG): \$841.5K to review guidelines, conduct community engagement, and develop training and culturally relevant materials.
- Development of Early Literacy Pathways: \$500K to support professional training for the workforce and improve literacy-focused professional development.

Mechanism: Contracts

Program Services \$15.9M

- Reach Out and Read: \$200K to expand home language literacy efforts.
- Dolly Parton Imagination Library (DPIIL): \$2.2M to increase book access.
- **Enhance Home Visiting Programs:** \$3M to OPK, RN, HFO to improve access to culturally specific literacy materials.
- ECEF: \$3M for developing culturally relevant literacy initiatives.
- **Community Funding for Literacy:** \$7.5M for regional Early Learning Hubs

Mechanism: Grant amendments and contracts

Metrics and Outcomes



Metrics	Outcomes
<p>DELC will monitor metrics focused on family/caregiver engagement, workforce and professional development, and Tribal language revitalization</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Accessible pathways exist to grow the full diversity of the early learning and care workforce supporting early literacy• More early learning programs promote culturally specific literacy with the children and families they serve• Increased access to culturally specific, developmentally appropriate early literacy programming for children and families• Families actively shape children's literacy development and influence early literacy policies, implementation, and budgets• State resources support Tribal Nations in expanding language revitalization efforts• Increased access to culturally and linguistically appropriate early literacy services in Tribal communities

BT5 Plan
pg. 12

Leveraging Existing Systems

Unlike the K-12 education system, which provides universal access to schooling, early learning opportunities for children from birth through age five are not available to all families. As a result, it will be important to use existing data collection systems, that are population level, to help measure the impact of early literacy strategies.

Early Learning Transition Check-In (ELTC)

- Collects a statewide snapshot of data about children and families as they begin kindergarten.
- Supports families in building relationships with their kindergarten educators.
- Designed to inform state-level decisions about Oregon's Early Learning System.



DELIC Contacts

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Dr. Charlene Williams, Agency Director, Oregon Department of Education

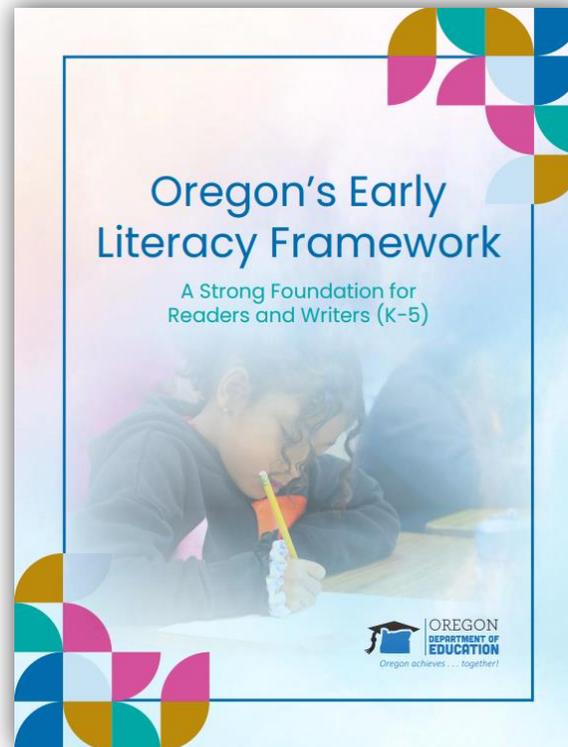
Early Literacy Success Initiative: A Statewide Approach

Early Literacy Success Initiative
HB 3198 (2023)

Early Literacy
School District
Grants
(ODE)

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Tribal Grants
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Birth-5 Literacy
Plan & Fund
(DELC)



Early Literacy Educator
Preparation Council

Recommendations to
Governor & TSPC
related to educator
preparation

In This Presentation

Three Early Literacy Success programs under ODE's purview:



Early Literacy Success
Tribal Grants



Early Literacy Success
Community Grants



Early Literacy Success
School District Grants

Grant Purpose & Goals

The overall purpose & goals of these grants are to:

1. Increase early literacy for children from **birth to grade three;**
2. Reduce early literacy **academic disparities** for student groups that have historically experienced academic disparities;
3. Increase support to **parents and guardians** to enable them to be partners in the development of their children's literacy skills and knowledge; and
4. Increase access to early literacy support that is **research-aligned, culturally responsive, and student-centered.**





Early Literacy Success Tribal Grants

Early Literacy Success Tribal Grants: Overview



Tribal Grants: \$2 million in set-aside, non-competitive funds allocated equally among the nine federally recognized Tribes in Oregon, providing \$222,222 per Tribe.



Honors Tribal Sovereignty: Tribes lead and shape literacy initiatives to align with their cultural values and educational priorities.



Purpose of the Funds:

Foundational Literacy Skills, Language Revitalization and Preservation, Family and Community Engagement, Professional Development for Tutors and Educators

Early Literacy Success Tribal Grants: Baseline

- **Funds Released March 2024:** Despite a compressed timeline, significant progress has been made:
 - **Tribal Engagement:** Engaged Tribes through Government-to-Government and AI/AN Advisory Committee meetings.
 - **Key Staff Onboarding:** Added an Education Specialist (July 2024) and a Policy Analyst (October 2024) to support Tribal Grants.
 - **Tribal Planning Support:** Tribes are developing plans aligned with their unique priorities.
 - **Rules Update:** Temporary rules filed (October 2024) to allow Tribes to access federal indirect cost rates.

Early Literacy Success Tribal Grants: Achievements

Foundational Work: Laid the groundwork for culturally aligned early literacy programs.

Technical Assistance: Provided ongoing technical support to Tribes in developing project plans.

Tribal Engagement: Over 75% of Tribes have submitted or are actively working on their project plans.

Site Visits: Identifying strengths, barriers, and local strategies to shape the work and inform future evaluation.

Early Literacy Success Tribal Grants: Next Steps

Funding and Rule Development

- **Permanent Rules:** Establish standalone rules distinguishing Tribal Grants from Community Grants to honor Tribal sovereignty and ensure access to federal indirect cost rates.
- **Full Fund Utilization:** Work closely with Tribes to ensure that funds are spent down by June 2025.

Tribal Engagement and Support

- **Establish Feedback Loop:** Establish a mechanism for ongoing feedback from Tribes to inform and adjust grant implementation.
- **Targeted Support Through Site Visits:** Continue site visits to provide technical assistance, understand progress, and collaborate on site-specific successes and challenges.

Early Literacy Success Tribal Grants: Next Steps

Research and Evaluation

- **Literature Review:** Conduct a comprehensive review of early literacy research on AI/AN youth to understand barriers, strengths, and culturally aligned practices.
- **Formal Program Evaluation:** Anticipate a comprehensive assessment of the Tribal Grants to establish a baseline and inform long-term program effectiveness.

Capacity Building and Knowledge Sharing

- **Framework and Guidance Development:** Create a structured framework, including a logic model or theory of change, to provide Tribes with long-term planning tools and a roadmap for sustained success.
- **End-of-Biennium Summit:** Host a statewide gathering in 2026 to share outcomes, highlight best and promising practices, and facilitate peer-to-peer learning.

Early Literacy Success Tribal Grants: Accountability



Reporting: Tribes will submit interim and final reports to document progress and establish a baseline for future evaluations.



Evaluation Criteria: Develop key metrics and benchmarks to assess progress and program outcomes.



Formal Program Evaluation: Conducting a comprehensive program evaluation in 2026 to analyze the direct impact of Tribal Grants.



Sharing Best and Promising Practices: Document and share successful strategies and lessons learned to foster continuous improvement and knowledge sharing across Tribes.



Early Literacy Success Community Grants



Early Literacy Community Grants

Background

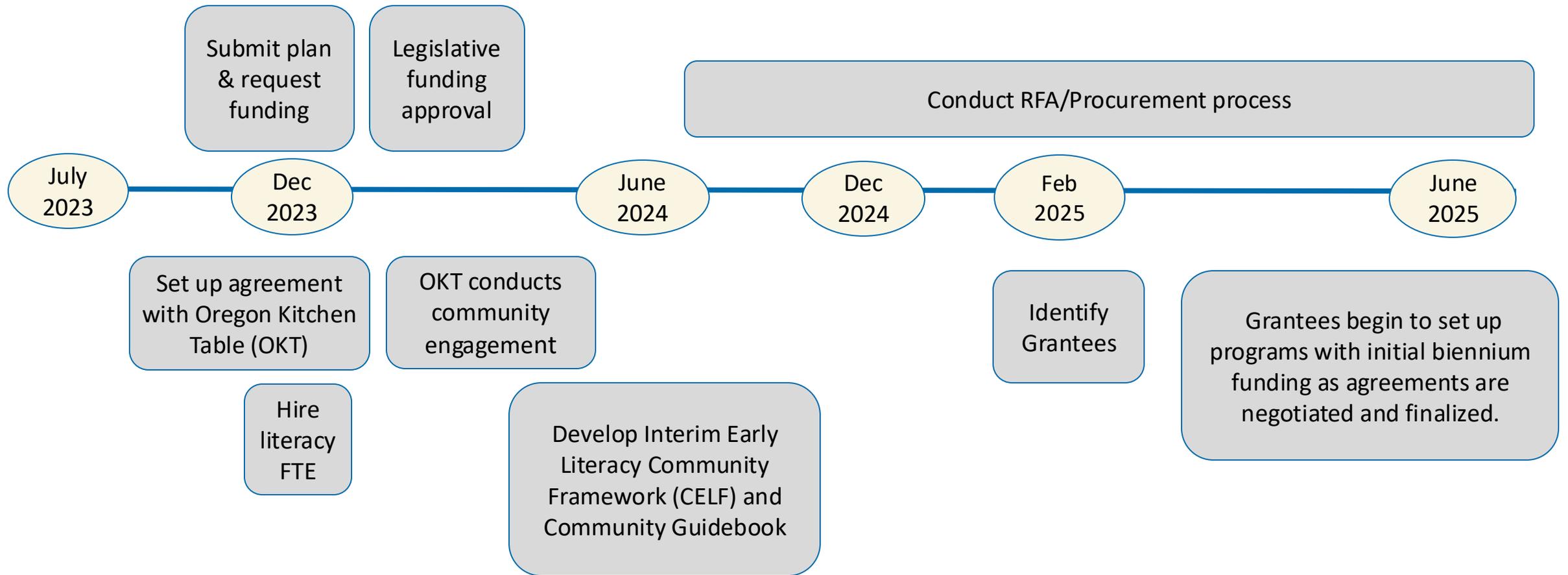


HB 3198 passed in 2023 with \$8M allocated to Community Grants around 3 goals:

1. Expand culturally and linguistically responsive early literacy programs for children in early elementary grades by:
 - Encouraging family and caregiver engagement; and
 - Providing research-aligned professional training and coaching for direct service staff in early literacy.
2. Develop and implement programs that engage parents and children in early elementary grades in early literacy and that are available equitably and statewide.
3. Provide high-dosage tutoring programs and training to tutors to qualify the tutors for instruction in a manner consistent with research-aligned literacy strategies.



Early Literacy Community Grants Timeline





Early Literacy Community Grants

Procurement Status Update

- The Request for Application (RFA) for this grant was posted to [OregonBuys](#) on September 13, 2024 and closed on November 21, 2024.
- Eligible entities: Community-based organizations, early learning hubs, providers of early learning services, post-secondary institutions of education, public libraries, or a consortium of these entities, per [OAR 581-017-0803 \(2\)\(a\)](#).
- 35 applications were received.
- 28 passed initial screening by Procurement and are currently being reviewed.
- Grantees will be identified and contract negotiations will begin in February 2025.



Early Literacy Community Grants

Overview

Accomplishments:

- Development of the Community Early Literacy Framework (CELF) for families and communities
- Development of the Community Early Literacy Guidebook for Organizations implementing literacy programs in communities

Anticipated Impacts:

- Extending literacy support into communities, enhancing literacy learning that happens in schools, fostering a cohesive system that leverages all opportunities to enhance literacy for students
- Centering the rich diversity of students and empowering communities to build on the strong foundations of literacy already thriving within families and neighborhoods

Challenges:

- Approval of funding for current biennium in January 2024 and ODE internal processes will leave a very short funding window for Grantees identified in February 2025
- Depending on time needed for grant agreements to be finalized, some Grantees may not utilize funding until the start of the next biennium



Early Literacy Success School District Grants



School District Grants: Part of a Statewide Approach

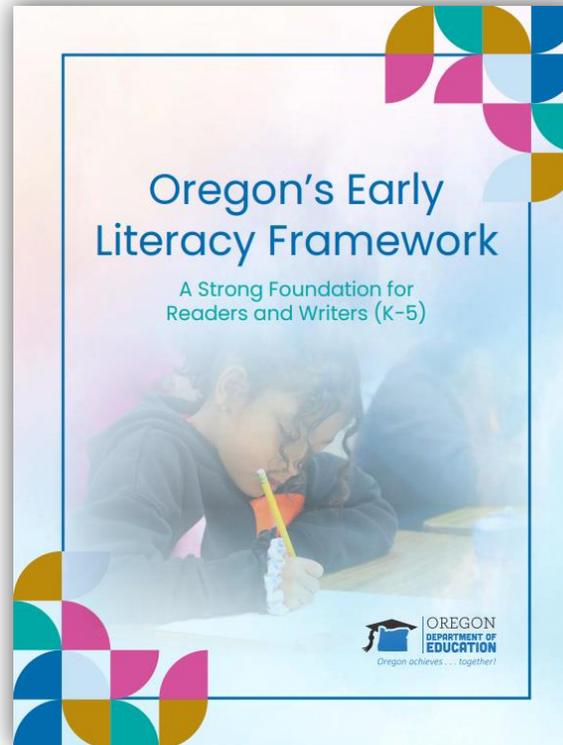
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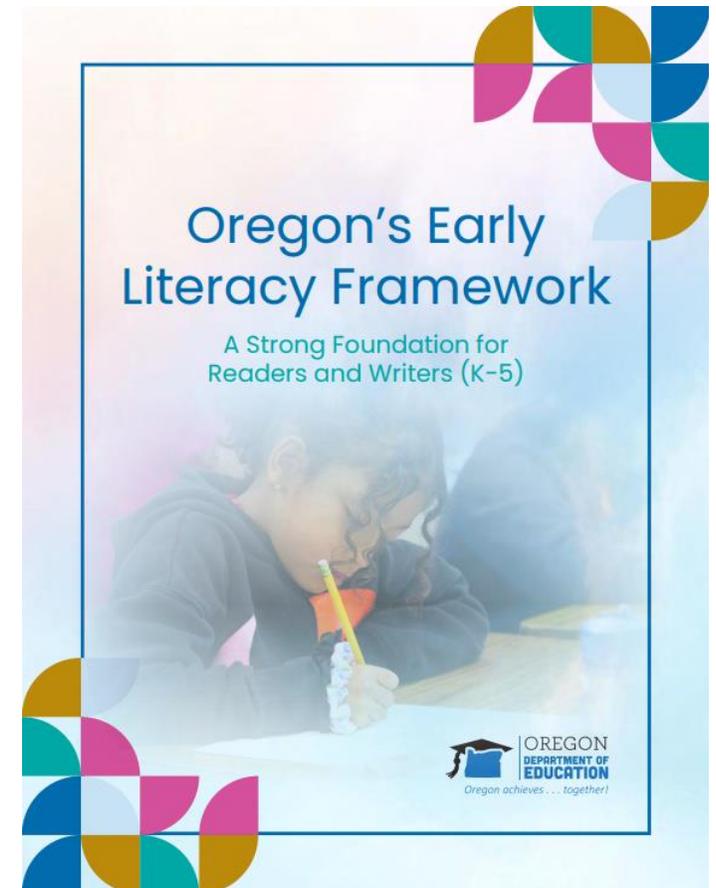
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Oregon's Early Literacy Framework (K-5)

Oregon's Early Literacy Framework emphasizes core instructional practices that benefit all students, with an intentional emphasis on how those practices can be leveraged to best serve students who have been historically marginalized by education systems, including multilingual learners and students experiencing disabilities.

THE CORE PURPOSE OF THIS FRAMEWORK IS TO:

- 1. Build statewide coherence, clarity, and common ground*
- 2. Fuel action and improvement*
- 3. Provide a practical road map for schools and districts to support leading for a literacy lift*
- 4. Serve as a shared north star for educators and community*
- 5. Align with Governor's vision for improving student literacy outcomes*



Lifting Literacy Through Research-Aligned Strategies

The grant funds five allowable uses to support early literacy through research-aligned strategies:

1. Adoption and implementation of curriculum
2. Professional development and coaching for teachers and administrators
3. Literacy specialists, coaches, or interventionists
4. Extended learning programs
5. High-dosage tutoring



Grant Requirements

Grants were available to 251 districts and public charter schools.

100% of eligible grantees submitted applications. 99% received funds.

Eligibility:

Districts or public charter schools (non-virtual) serving grades preK-5.

Application Requirements Included:

- ✓ An inventory of early literacy instructional materials being used
- ✓ A review of a grantee's early literacy program
- ✓ A communication plan
- ✓ A plan for implementing professional development & coaching, high-dosage tutoring, and extended learning
- ✓ Ensuring that activities are research-aligned

School District Grant Timeline 2023-2024

Within 11 months, 100% of the grant agreements were signed, and by June 30, 2024, every grantee had received their Year 1 funds.

October - November 2023

- Districts completed early literacy applications.
- Technical assistance provided to support new grant program application

December 2023 - January 2024

- Applications submitted to ODE.
- 100% of eligible entities applied.

January - March 2024

- Application reviewed by ODE.
- Technical assistance provided to ensure completion of minimum requirements.
- 99% of applications approved

March - May 2024

- Grant agreements finalized and funding began to flow.

June 2024

- 100% of approved applicants received Y1 funds

Distribution of Funds

\$90 million allocated for the biennium.

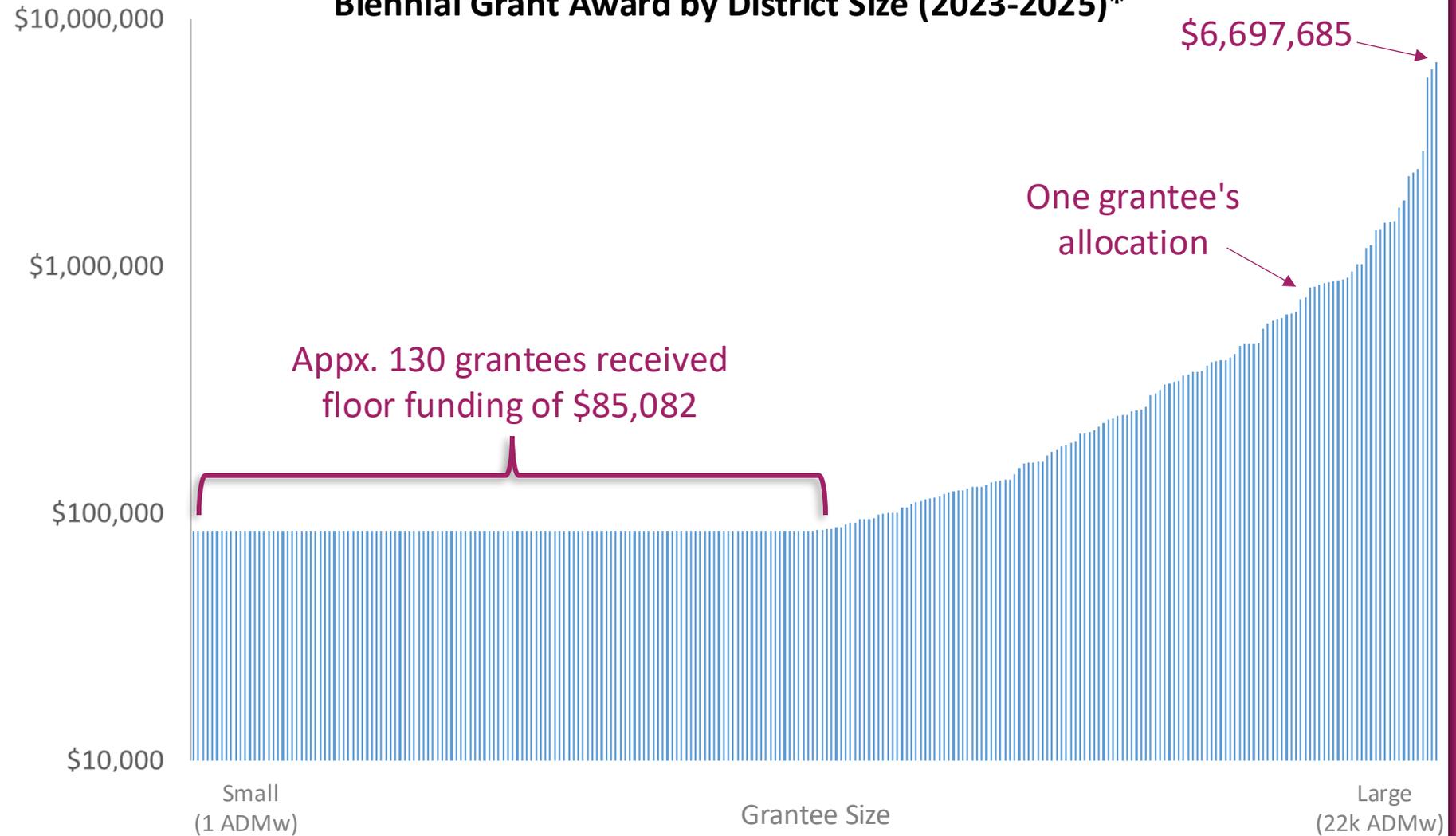
248 districts & charter schools received funds, representing **236,750** students.

Grants were distributed by formula, based on K-5 ADMw.

Grantees with less than 290 ADMw received a minimum grant award of \$85,082 per biennium.

Rate per ADMw = \$149.76

Biennial Grant Award by District Size (2023-2025)*



* Note vertical axis is logarithmic

Most of the investment will be spent in the 24-25 school year.

Total Funding Allocation
\$90,000,000

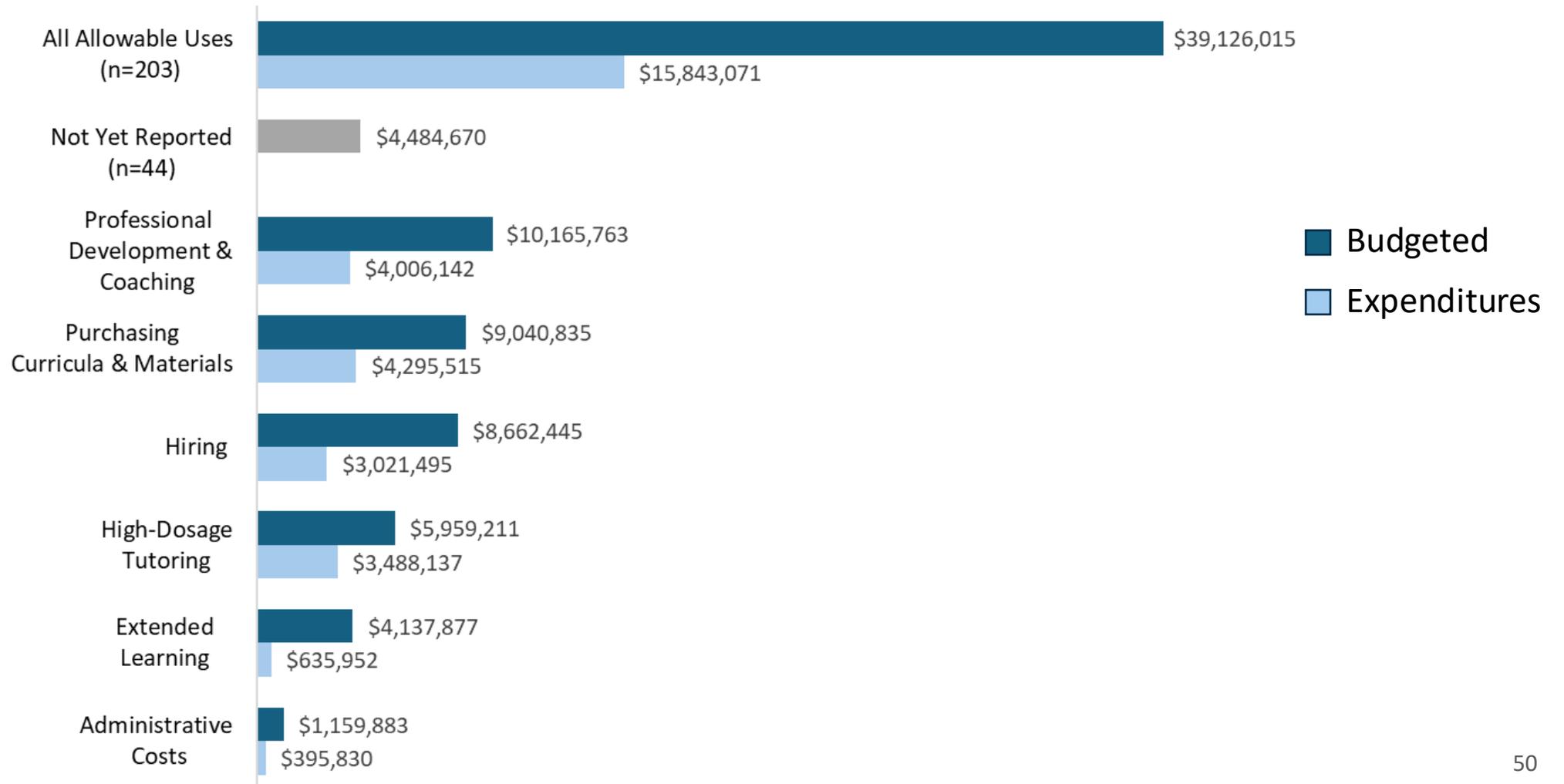
Total Funding Claimed*
\$57,206,146 (64%)

*As of January 31st, 2025

Early Literacy Investment In Action

Budgets & Expenditures by Allowable Use Category

(October 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024)



Building Momentum & Impact on Student Learning

“With the Early Literacy Grant, we've been able to have an additional reading interventionist plus an early literacy coach to go in and coach every teacher on their literacy curriculum.” - Jessica Diaz, Instructional Coach, Vestal Elementary School, PPS

Oregon Department of Education

In a short amount of time, the funds have been invested across various early literacy activities:

200

FTE Funded to Support Literacy
(Coaches, Interventionists,
Specialists, & Tutors)

5,719

K-5 Students
Participated in
Extended Learning

13,221

K-5 Students
Participated in High-
Dosage Tutoring

3,938

Educators Received PD &
Coaching in Early Literacy
Research-Aligned Strategies

Data as of June 30th, 2024.

Tracking Progress & Impact Over Time



Longitudinal Performance Growth Targets which are goals for 3rd Grade ELA proficiency on the state summative assessment, included in each district's Integrated Plan.



Reporting data on various early literacy grant activities, including outcomes for students who participate in high-dosage tutoring and extended learning.



Accountability: Monitoring and technical assistance in coordination with Integrated Programs (i.e. SIA, HSS)

Proposed Changes to Support Implementation



Based on feedback from districts and partners, ODE is working towards potential changes to the statute, including:

- **Increasing instructional coherence and strengthening the impact of instructional assistants** by expanding the personnel allowed to participate in professional development funded by this grant.
- **Clarifying various implementation details through technical fixes** including requirements for extended learning, community engagement, and annual reporting.

Looking Ahead: School District Grants & Other Literacy Initiatives

January – February 2025

- Release of new criteria for allowable uses
- Release of approved providers lists

March 2025

- Application for 25-27 biennium
- Full integration into Aligned Programs & Integrated Guidance

July 2025

- Refined requirements for allowable uses take effect

September – November 2025

- Annual reporting for the 24-25 SY

Other Literacy Initiatives on the Horizon

- Adolescent Literacy Framework
- Comprehensive Literacy Statewide Development Federal Grant (\$57M/5yrs)
- Statewide Literacy Strategic Plan
- Instructional Materials Professional Development Network

Comprehensive Literacy State Development (CLSD) Federal Grant



- Anticipated **\$57.89 million over 5-years** (\$11.58 million annually)
- Aligns closely with the state funded Early Literacy School District Grants
- **95%** of funds are required to be subgranted to districts and other eligible entities.
- **5%** of funds for SEA activities:
 - Administration of the grants
 - Development of a Statewide Literacy Strategic Plan

Comprehensive Literacy State Development (CLSD) Federal Grant (cont'd)

- Subgrantees must be awarded through a competitive process.
 - ODE anticipates 40-60 recipients .
 - Must prioritize based on federal requirements which emphasize, generally, districts serving a large number or percent low-income students & those furthest from literacy proficiency.

Funds support grades **birth - grade 12** and must be spent in set proportions:



15% birth - K transition



40% grades K-5



40% grades 6-12

Growing the Investment



Why it Matters:

- The initial investment was a start, but not enough to maximize impact across all strategies and required activities named in the law, especially for small rural schools.
- We still have lots of work to do. This will take sustained commitment.
- Educators are invested in the work and funding is critical to sustaining the momentum.

Recommendation:

- **Allocate the \$100 million for literacy for the biennium** to continue statewide early literacy efforts and to meet this moment. This would:
 - Raise the floor funding for small/rural districts
 - Allow districts to operationalize all five allowable uses
 - Allow districts to provide programming across the full Pk-3rd grade continuum
- **Allocate funding for third party evaluation** to measure impact and inform continuous improvement.



Questions

Thank You!

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- Alyssa Chatterjee, alyssa.chatterjee@delc.oregon.gov

