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Date: February 6, 2025

From: Alyssa Chatterjee, Director of Department of Early Learning and Care

To: Co-Chair Ruiz, Co-Chair Solman, and Members of the Joint Committee on Education

Subject: DELC Responses to a question from February 4, 2025 Presentation

Committee Question: Please provide a copy of the map showing where all the funds went. Please explain where the money went and how it was distributed.

Response:

Please see [the map of where 24/25 Birth Through Five Literacy funds were allocated](#) for the 2024-25 program year. Allocations are represented at the Early Learning Hub region level to create consistent levels of data.

To enable the access of funds by community quickly, following the Spring 2024 approval by the Legislature, DELC leveraged existing program infrastructure. \$4.7 million of the funds were allocated through the Kindergarten Readiness Partnership & Innovation (KPI) Funds to Early Learning Hubs to distribute across their regions using the KPI funding formula for allocation. \$4.7 million was allocated to the Early Childhood Equity Fund, which included funds available to the nine Federally Recognized Tribes in Oregon. Allocations are shown based on the zip code of their managing agency, provided by each grantee in their application for funding. Please note that some grantees provide services and programs in additional regions beyond where their main agency may be located.

The allowable uses of the funds include:

Kindergarten Readiness Partnership & Innovation Funds (KPI):

- Establishment or expansion of early literacy-focused professional development opportunities for early learning and early educators.
- Establishment or expansion of parent/caregiver engagement activities, including book distribution in multiple languages focused on early literacy development.
- Establishment or expansion of Little Free Libraries in communities that have been historically underserved.

The Mission of the Department of Early Learning and Care fosters coordinated, culturally appropriate, and family-centered services that recognize and respect the strengths and needs of all children, families, and early learning and care professionals. Our Vision is that all children, families, early care and education professionals, and communities are supported and empowered to thrive.



- Establishment or expansion of regional partnerships with organizations to increase access to books.
- Consultation with Tribal Officials and/or Leaders: Engage with Tribal Officials and/or Tribal leaders and cultural experts to understand the specific and cultural needs and preferences of sovereign Tribal Nations and indigenous populations regarding language and literacy.

Early Childhood Equity Fund (ECEP):

- Develop and/or deliver early literacy resources and materials through ECEP-funded parenting education and parent-child interaction activities. Enhance and/or expand on existing literacy-related activities.
- Develop and/or deliver culturally relevant early literacy training and professional development activities for both early childhood and early grade educators (kindergarten through third grade), providers, and/or other staff that would benefit from literacy training opportunities.
- Conduct community engagement activities to identify community-specific gaps in early literacy activities to further inform the 2024 Birth Through Five Literacy plan.

DELC recommends a more comprehensive approach to distributing the Birth Through Five Literacy funds for 25-27, based on community input. Those recommendations can be found on [slide 22](#) of the presentation on February 4, 2025.
