



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

# DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: July 28, 2025

To: Local Educational Agency Leads

Route To: Principals, Assistant Superintendents of Curriculum and Instruction, Supervisors, Instructional Coaches, Teachers

From: Jorden Schiff, Ed.D., Assistant Commissioner  
Division of Teaching and Learning

Deadline: August 21, 2025

## **Comprehensive State Literacy Development (CLSD) Grant Applications Now Available to Districts**

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) is pleased to announce the release of four grant opportunities, totaling \$15 million, to support comprehensive, evidence-based literacy instruction across the state. Funded through a \$50 million, five-year federal grant awarded to the NJDOE, these funding opportunities will help local education agencies (LEAs) expand access to high-quality, evidence-based literacy programs. They are designed to advance literacy development from birth through grade 12 and address key areas such as literacy coaching, instructional materials, family engagement, and secondary intervention.

To be eligible for each of these CLSD grants, LEAs must have at least 40% of students qualifying for free or reduced-price lunch. Eligible LEAs may apply for any combination of the following grant opportunities:

- The [\*Cultivating Ongoing Achievement through Coaching in Literacy \(COACH\)\*](#) grant will provide LEAs with the opportunity to hire and train literacy coaches to strengthen literacy instruction across grades K–12. This grant is designed to support schools that serve high populations of economically disadvantaged students who are not meeting grade-level expectations in English Language Arts (ELA). Coaches funded through this opportunity will participate in a NJDOE-led training program and be part of a statewide cohort receiving consistent, evidence-based support and resources.
- The [\*Instructional Materials for Professional Advancement and Coherent Teaching \(IMPACT\)\*](#) grant will help LEAs purchase and implement high-quality instructional materials (HQIM) for literacy instruction, as outlined in the NJDOE Special Broadcast, [\*Additional Suite of Literacy Resources: High Quality Instructional Materials \(HQIM\) Guidance, Professional Learning, and Data Collection to Support Early Literacy\*](#), also released today. These materials, when aligned with local curriculum and paired with professional learning, can enhance instruction and improve instructional effectiveness.
- The [\*Literacy Initiative for Families and Thriving Communities \(LIFT\)\*](#) grant will focus on family engagement and early literacy development for children from birth to age 3. This opportunity is available to LEAs serving preschool-aged children and aims to strengthen the connection between families, schools, and communities to promote home-based literacy habits.

- The [Reading Intervention for Secondary Engagement \(RISE\)](#) grant supports the implementation of innovative, evidence-based literacy interventions for students in grades 6 through 12 who are not meeting grade-level English Language Arts standards. This opportunity prioritizes projects that align with evidence-based practices and seeks to fund sustainable models that go beyond online programs.

The deadline for all four grant applications is August 21, 2025.

### **Technical Assistance**

To support the grant application process, the NJDOE will be hosting virtual technical assistance sessions on the following dates:

- August 6, 2025 from 10:00-12:00 PM, a combined session for COACH, IMPACT, LIFT and RISE.
- August 11, 2025 RISE at 1:00 PM, LIFT at 2:00 PM.
- August 14, 2025 COACH at 1:00 PM, IMPACT at 2:00 PM

LEAs may register through the [NJDOE calendar of events](#).

### **Contact Information**

Please email the Office of Learning Equity & Academic Recovery (LEAR) at [LEAR@doe.nj.gov](mailto:LEAR@doe.nj.gov) with questions regarding the competitive grants and visit the LEAR [website](#) for more information.

c: Members, State Board of Education  
NJDOE Staff  
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network  
Garden State Coalition of Schools  
NJ LEE Group