

Comprehensive Literacy State Development Grant FAQs

General Questions

1. **Q: We are encouraged to submit our grant prior to the deadline to avoid any issues with EWEG. In the past, when I have done this, if there were any areas in need of improvement, we were notified and had the opportunity to edit, revise, and resubmit. Will that be the case with these grants as well?**
 - A. Once an application has been submitted, it cannot be returned prior to the deadline for resubmission. However, applications selected for funding, as a result of the competitive process, may be returned to the applicant as part of the pre-award revision process.

COACH

1. **Q: The COACH grant is presented as a 5-year continuation project, but the project period on the NGO is from September 2025 until August 2026. Is the expectation that awarded districts must reapply each year for continued funding? Is there a possibility this will not be funded in future years?**
 - A. Yes. This is a continuation grant. Awardees must reapply annually for up to 5 years of continuation funding, which is contingent upon federal CLSD funds being available and the LEA remaining in good standing. While continuation applications are streamlined from Year 1 and not competitive, funding is not guaranteed each year.
2. **Q: Is there a possibility that this will not be funded via the federal government?**
 - A. Yes. The New Jersey Department of Education receives the funding for the CLSD grants from the federal government as a grantee on an annual basis. The continuation funding is contingent upon federal funds being available in the following years, and New Jersey remaining in good standing with the grant program year after year.
3. **Q: If we have previously funded a literacy coach through Title I or other federal funds, can we fund the coach through COACH? If we have an existing literacy coach serving certain grades, can we apply for this grant to fund additional grades?**
 - A. Using COACH funds to pay for a position already funded through another source may be considered supplanting and is generally not allowable. However, if the role is newly created for the grant, the prior funding has ended, or it expands service to additional grades with a new position, it may be allowable. Benefits must be included in the cost calculation. You may however put the position in as FICA only and pay for the benefits out of local funds.

- 4. Q: Do we need to have the new literacy coach position board-approved or filled at the time of submission? Can current staff members apply for the position?**
- A. No — the position does not need to be board-approved or filled at submission, but you must clearly outline your hiring plan. Current staff may apply as long as they are not currently serving in a literacy coach role.
- 5. Q: Is there guidance on the number of coaches per student population? Can the grant fund a partial position?**
- A. The NGO does not specify a recommended ratio. The grant allows funding for one or more full-time or part-time K–12 literacy coaches, based on local needs and within the annual funding limit.
- 6. Q: Do we need to budget for salary increases over the 5 years? What if the cost of the coach exceeds the \$150,000 annual limit?**
- A. The NGO does not require planned salary increases, but budgets should realistically account for potential contractual adjustments over time. The grant will not reimburse more than \$150,000 per year; costs above this amount must be covered by the LEA.
- 7. Q: What are the certification requirements for the coach position?**
- A. LEAs must outline required and preferred credentials (e.g., reading specialist, special education, multilingual learner certification). If a candidate lacks certain certifications, the LEA should include a plan for obtaining them.
- 8. Q: If we have previously funded a coach through Title I or other federal funds, can we fund the coach through the COACH grant?**
- A. Yes — an LEA currently funding a literacy coach through Title I or other federal funds could choose to fund that position through the COACH grant instead. However, under federal *supplanting* rules, once the position is funded through COACH, it cannot be funded again with Title I or other federal funds in the future. The position must remain funded through COACH or other non-federal sources for the duration of the grant.
- 9. Q: If we have an existing literacy coach serving specific grades, can we apply for COACH funding to cover additional grades?**
- A. Yes — if you create a new position or revise the role to add grade levels not currently served, it would be considered an expansion of services rather than supplanting. The COACH-funded role must be in addition to your current coaching services, not a replacement for them.

IMPACT

- 1. Q: If a district has already adopted high quality instructional materials, can we apply just for professional learning?**
 - A. The intent of the grant is to support the implementation of newly adopted HQIM. If the HQIM adopted is prior to the grant period, the activity does not meet the intent of the grant.
- 2. Q: If we are doing a pilot year with HQIM and are only purchasing the core reading program for 2 classrooms per grade level with the intention of going district wide 26-27 would we be eligible?**
 - A. Yes, if the purchase and implementation of the pilot HQIM occurs during the grant term (Sept. 30, 2025 – Aug. 31, 2026). The NGO specifies that activities must be completed and costs must be incurred during the grant term. A plan to expand districtwide in 26–27 would be outside the scope of the grant unless funded separately.
- 3. Q: Can the funds be used to purchase for the 26-27 school year following our pilot program?**
 - A. No — the materials and program must be purchased and implemented during the grant term. You can't use these funds for purchases that will not be implemented until after Aug. 31, 2026.
- 4. Q: If supplanting is not allowed, and we've already budgeted for materials, but the grant only covers 50% of the material costs, how will the remaining 50% be funded?**
 - A. The district must identify and commit local funds, other federal/state funds (if allowable), or other resources to cover the remaining 50% of HQIM purchase costs. The grant will only reimburse up to 50% of material costs. Since this is a new purchase it is not considered supplanting.
- 5. Q: Do I need to know now what materials I am going to use?**
 - A. The application requires you to describe the selection process for HQIM using the NJ Literacy Framework rubric, including who will lead the process, selection criteria, and a timeline for adoption and implementation. If you haven't finalized a product, you must clearly outline the process and criteria you will use during the grant term.
[\(The New Jersey Literacy Framework: A Guide to High Quality Instructional Materials\)](#)
- 6. Q: Can you clarify, did you say that the goal of this is to find a core program rather than finding resources to enhance a current instructional program?**
 - A. The IMPACT Grant is intended to support the adoption and implementation of HQIM for Tier 1 core literacy instruction, not simply enhancements or supplemental resources.
- 7. Q: Would the IMPACT grant allow offsetting the cost of adopting Orton Gillingham materials for K–2?**
 - A. Only if those materials meet the NJ Literacy Framework criteria for HQIM and are adopted as the district's Tier 1 core literacy program for the selected grade band. If Orton-Gillingham is being used solely as an intervention or supplemental program, it may not meet the core HQIM requirement.

- 8. Q: If we have already adopted and purchased a HQIM last year can we write the grant to fund PD, substitutes for PD, and stipends for after contractual hour PD?**
- A. The PD must be tied to the initial implementation of HQIM purchased during the grant term. If your materials were purchased last year, it may not meet the “purchase and implement during the grant term” requirement unless you are purchasing a new edition or significant upgrade.
- 9. Q: We already have HQIM K–12 in year 4 but are working towards formative assessment and professional learning regarding tiered support. Would we be eligible?**
- A. Not for this grant — the IMPACT Grant is focused on HQIM purchase and initial PD. Formative assessment systems and PD for tiered supports are not identified as allowable unless directly tied to new HQIM adoption.
- 10. Q: Can you clarify how much of the grant can be used for purchasing HQIM?**
- A. The grant funding may be used for up to 50% of HQIM costs and up to 100% of the initial professional learning needed for implementation.
- 11. Q: Can we purchase a new edition of materials we already have?**
- A. Yes, if the new edition meets the NJ Literacy Framework criteria for HQIM and is adopted as the district’s Tier 1 core literacy program during the grant term. In the Need portion of the application the LEA would need to demonstrate that previous materials did not meet NJ’s criteria, but the new edition does. It would be treated as a new purchase for grant purposes.

RISE

- 1. Q: Is there a minimum number of goals?**
- A. Yes. While there’s no fixed *number* of goals stated, the application must include at least one goal, and each goal must have at least one objective and indicator is there a minimum number of goals?
- 2. Q: Can we focus on one particular school in our district, or does it have to be district-wide?**
- A. You *can* focus on one particular school, as long as the LEA (district) meets the eligibility requirement of having 40% or more free and reduced lunch in grades 6–12. The focus of the project can be any identified need within the eligible student population—it does not have to be implemented district-wide.
- 3. Q: Unlike IMPACT, can this program be focused on whichever student population has an identified need?**
- A. Yes. The RISE program allows you to focus on whichever student population in grades 6–12 has been identified—through local data—as needing literacy intervention

LIFT

1. Q: Do applications need to come from LEAs or can they come from entities?

- A. Applications must come from LEAs that meet the eligibility criteria. Community-based nonprofit organizations, institutes of higher education, or other entities are not listed as eligible applicants. However, LEAs are required to partner with at least one community-based organization and collaborate with their local DCF County Council for Young Children.

Technical Assistance

If technical assistance with EWEG is needed, please email eweghelp@doe.nj.gov. For programmatic questions, please contact LEAR@doe.nj.gov.