

# 2024-2025 Literacy Grant: Information Guide



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## Vision

It is a priority of Virginia that every child, no matter where they live or what type of school they attend, has a strong, coherent literacy education tailored toward their needs and led by a content-strong, effective teacher. Strong literacy practices and supports will ensure that every child has evidence-based daily literacy instruction, and in turn, will be prepared for their post-secondary hopes and dreams. In order to continue the momentum around evidence-based literacy instruction and ensure sustained, effective implementation for years to come, the VDOE aims to extend and expand literacy efforts in divisions and student groups with the most need. VDOE was awarded funding through the federal Comprehensive Literacy State Development (CLSD) grant to provide a coherent system of supports for both students and educators over the next five years.

With declines in reading most notable in students with disabilities and English learners, coupled with rapidly changing enrollment, divisions have requested professional learning and technical assistance for schools to support educators of these student groups. Divisions also want to make meaningful home-school connections to emphasize the importance of literacy and to provide ways families can support reading in the home. In response to division feedback, VDOE is prioritizing three opportunities for this school year: the English Learner Literacy Network, the Students with Disabilities Literacy Network, and family engagement resources.

The 2024-2024 Literacy Grant will provide additional support and funding to ensure schools have the structures, tools, capacity, and resources to increase literacy growth and achievement for all students.

- **English Learner Literacy Network:** School leadership teams and division leaders will participate in a network focused on creating and executing an action plan for increased student achievement and graduation rates and building capacity of best instructional practices for English learners. This network includes:
  - Three, in-person EL Literacy Network convenings to support leaders in evidence-based reading research, what high quality curriculum implementation looks like, the impact of structured literacy on English Learners, change management processes in a school setting, and how to provide feedback using the VDOE walkthrough tool.
  - Technical assistance on creating and executing a school action plan to increase growth and achievement, graduation rates, and instructional capacity for English learners which includes support sessions, reading specialist training, literacy block planning and structures, and in-person coaching days.
- **Students with Disabilities Literacy Network:** School leadership teams and division leaders will participate in a network focused on creating and executing an action plan for increased student

achievement and building capacity of best instructional practices for students with disabilities.

This network includes:

- In-person SWD Literacy Network convenings to support leaders in evidence-based reading research, inclusionary practices focusing on the effective use of high-quality curriculum, staffing and scheduling to meet the needs of students, addressing individual needs in lesson preparation, and how to provide feedback using the VDOE walkthrough tool.
  - Technical assistance on creating and executing a school action plan to increase growth and achievement and instructional capacity for students with disabilities which includes virtual network sessions, training on the roles and responsibilities of special educators, a library of resources and research, monthly one-on-one calls, and in-person coaching days.
- **Family Engagement Resources for Pre-K and Kindergarten through Just Right Readers:** Each student receives a Take-Everywhere Pack of decodable books that parents can use to read at home with their child. These student-tailored packs align to the skills each child needs and their classroom instruction. Teachers also receive small group lessons to use for each class delivery of backpacks of books. Just Right Reader Decodable Packs are available in English and Spanish, and they come with videos for parents to help their child.

## Application Funding

The 2024-2025 Literacy Grant application includes funding for three opportunities: family engagement resources, the English Learner Literacy Network, and the Students with Disabilities Literacy Network.

- Family Engagement Resources for Pre-K and Kindergarten through Just Right Readers (\$14,000 per school): This funding covers the purchase of student Take-Everywhere Packs to be delivered throughout the year.
- English Learner Literacy Network (\$30,000 per school): This funding covers the cost of the network and travel costs for attendees.
- Students with Disabilities Literacy Network (\$30,000 per school): This funding covers the cost of the network and travel costs for attendees.

## Application

For this grant cycle, all [applications](#) are to be submitted by no later than Monday, December 2, 2024. The short application should be submitted by one division-level employee and requires:

- Grant Point of Contact Information.
- Acknowledgement of completing [assurances](#) upon receipt of grant.
- School information, selection of grant opportunities, and a 350-word summary of implementation and impact of the grant.

Divisions should consider school capacity when selecting one or both networks based on the data, personnel, and needs of the schools.

Divisions with high needs will be prioritized for this grant award.

Applicants are highly encouraged to attend the [Literacy Grant Q&A Office Hours](#) on November 20.

## Timeline

November 14	2024-2025 Literacy Grant application window pens
November 20 at 11:00 am	Grant Q&A Office Hours held; <a href="#">registration</a> required
December 2	2024-2025 Literacy Grant Applications Due
December 6	Grant notification
December 13	Virtual kick-off meeting for SWD and EL Network members

Questions can be emailed to [Michelle.Wallace@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:Michelle.Wallace@doe.virginia.gov). Upon receipt of the grant, assurances documentation should be emailed to [Instruction@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:Instruction@doe.virginia.gov).