EXPLORATION SUPPORTS
District Early Literacy Instructional Program Review

COLORADO
Department of Education

EASI Route: Exploration Supports – District Early Literacy Instruction Program Review

For More Information, Contact:

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Introduction

The District Early Literacy Instructional Program Review is an opportunity for district leaders and staff to use the CDE literacy instructional program review process to review their current K-3 literacy instructional programs (core, supplemental, and/or intervention). This process will assist participants in determining program alignment with scientifically and evidence-based reading research and instruction. As part of this support, a CDE literacy consultant will guide participants through the process of evaluating an instructional program using the 2020 CDE Literacy Instructional Program Rubric(s).

Support is focused on building participant capacity to determine alignment of instructional programs with scientifically based reading research and evidence-based instructional practices. Participants learn how to use CDE-provided tools to determine the relative strengths and weaknesses of a given program and gain a deeper understanding of effective early literacy instructional design and factors to consider when selecting an early literacy instructional program.

Eligible Applicants and Prioritization

Eligibility. Eligible applicants are LEAs that have schools that are:
- Identified for support and improvement under ESSA (i.e., Comprehensive, Targeted, Additional Targeted), OR
- Have a Priority Improvement or Turnaround plan type on the most recent School Performance Framework

Prioritization. In the event that not all EASI proposals can be funded, proposals that meet grant expectations will be funded in the order of the EASI school-level prioritization list. Schools with the highest number of prioritization points will be funded first. Consideration will be given to:
1. Significant Reading Deficiency data for the last two years (higher rates will be ranked as priority districts)

Available Funds

The duration of the services within the Exploration route is January 2021 – December 2021. LEAs are eligible to apply for up to $10,000 for the District Early Literacy Instructional Program Review. An LEA may request funds in addition to the $10,000 for the review in the Exploration route for costs associated with improvement planning (e.g., collaboration time, retreats, stipends, substitutes, hosting a community meeting) as well as early implementation activities (e.g., staff to coordinate improvement efforts, CDE facilitated EL supports, job-embedded learning opportunities). See the Exploration information sheet for details and funding amounts. An LEA may use the information obtained through the Early Literacy Instructional Program Review and improvement planning process to develop an application for additional funds in the District Design and Led route in a subsequent EASI application.

Allowable Use of Funds

Each participating district will receive up to $10,000 to be used towards the following:

- Costs associated with the review (e.g., substitutes, stipends, time for job-embedded learning opportunities and/or time for collaboration) and staff debrief of the findings (e.g., stipends)
- Leadership development related to the results of the review.

Funds from this opportunity must be used to **supplement and not supplant** any federal, state, and local funds currently being used to provide activities. There will be no carryover of funds. Unobligated funds at the end of the fiscal year will be returned to the CDE.

Evaluation and Reporting

Schools receiving funds under this grant opportunity are required to:

- Update the UIP during the standard window to reflect the exploration work (i.e., external review, parent and community engagement, improvement planning). CDE will review the plan during the school's standard window (e.g., January for schools on the accountability clock; April for remaining schools).
- Schools identified for support and improvement through ESSA (i.e., CS, TS, and additional TS schools) must use the exploration results to meet the comprehensive needs assessment requirements. CS schools should document these expectations in the UIP; TS and Additional TS schools may use the UIP.
- Submit the Annual Financial Report (AFR) to CDE.

Program Assurances

There are no additional assurances for this route beyond the general assurances covered in the EASI application.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Colorado Department of Education's EASI Website
www.cde.state.co.us/fedprograms/easiapplication