

ITEM FOR ACTION**EARLY LITERACY SUCCESS GRANT****SUMMARY**

Oregon's new Early Literacy Success Initiative provides funding targeted to help school districts improve early literacy. The district's plan for the grant funds is presented for approval.

BACKGROUND

The Oregon Legislature passed House Bill 3198 in June 2023, creating the Early Literacy Success Initiative with four programs: Early Literacy Success Tribal Grants, Early Literacy Success Community Grants, Early Literacy Success School District Grants, and Birth Through Five Literacy Plan. The purpose of the initiative is to: (1) Increase early literacy for children from birth to grade three; (2) Reduce literacy academic disparities for student groups that have historically experienced academic disparities; (3) Increase support to parents and guardians to enable them to be partners in the development of their children's literacy skills and knowledge; and (4) Increase access to early literacy learning through support that is research-aligned, culturally responsive, student-centered and family-centered.

Oregon school districts may apply for Early Literacy Success Grant funding for the 2023-2025 biennium between December 1, 2023 and January 8, 2024. Funding is based upon ADMw for district enrollment in grades K–5. Funding for Beaverton is approximately \$2.84 million in the first year and \$2.95 million in the second year, and has a required 25% match of funds focused on advancing early literacy for students in grades K–3. In this initial biennium, a portion of the funding may be used to support students in grades 4–5 — up to 20% of the funding during the 2023–24 school year and up to 10% in the 2024–25 year.

The district has prepared an application for submission that focuses the available grant funds to support four key areas allowed as part of the grant, and uses braided funding from the Student Investment Account for the fifth allowed key area to fulfill the required 25% match:

- Adoption and implementation of literacy instructional materials that align with the Oregon Literacy Framework
- Professional development in research-aligned literacy strategies for grades K-3
- High-dosage literacy tutoring Summer programming for students in grades K-3
- Matching funds: Academic Specialists to support literacy

Information about the legislation, the grant process, and the district's proposed grant application was shared and discussed in the school board study session and business meeting on November 28, 2023.

RECOMMENDATION

The superintendent recommends the board approve the district's plan and application for the grant.

SUGGESTED MOTION

I move that the board approve the district's application for the Early Literacy Success Grant.

Belong. Believe. Achieve.