



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Early Literacy Implementation – Budget Guidance

December 12, 2013

Purpose

The purpose of this guidance is to aid Iowa’s public school districts determining how to best use the funds provided by the 2013 legislative session that enacted Iowa Code §279.68 regarding early literacy progression. The Iowa Department of Education has also interpreted §279.68 in IAC 281—62. The requirements of Iowa Code §279.68 and IAC 281—62 apply to all public school districts in Iowa.

General Information

All public districts in Iowa will receive a share of \$8 million allocated for the implementation of Iowa Code §279.68. Half of the funds will be distributed equally to Iowa’s 346 districts, while the other half will be distributed based on each district’s student enrollment as of October 1, 2012. Districts are required to apply for the funds and submit a budget in order for the money to be distributed. Applications can be submitted at www.iowagrants.gov. The application process is brief and requires the following information: the name of the district you represent, your official enrollment count for 2012, and a proposed budget.

How to Budget

Districts are permitted to use their share of the allocated funds to implement any part of Iowa Code §279.68. The following chart is provided to help districts determine how to spend this money. These questions are meant to be answered in order, as there is a hierarchy of system needs that must be addressed in order to put in place appropriate supports for early literacy. The Iowa Department of Education recommends budgeting funds for the district needs that appear earliest in this table.

Question	Answer	Suggested Items for Budget
Is there consensus in your district that reading instruction can improve and that using the combination of high standards in a multi-tiered system of supports is an evidence-based way of improving reading outcomes?	No or I’m not sure.	Staff time to engage in understanding and building your level of consensus with the Department’s consensus toolkit.
Does your district wish to use the state-sponsored universal screening and progress monitoring assessments (FAST) in the Iowa TIER data system?	Yes.	Pay for training on data system and assessments.
Does your district currently use scientific, research-based reading instruction that would meet the standards of Iowa Code §279.68?	I’m not sure.	Staff time to review current practices using the Department’s implementation guide for reviewing your core instruction.
Does your district currently use scientific, research-based reading instruction that would meet the standards of Iowa Code §279.68?	No.	Purchase of new curriculum and/or instructional materials; professional learning for staff on implementation.
If you are using scientific, research-based reading instruction, are you	I’m not sure.	Staff time to review current practices using the Department’s

Question	Answer	Suggested Items for Budget
implementing it with fidelity?		implementation guide for reviewing your core instruction.
If you are using scientific, research-based reading instruction, are you implementing it with fidelity?	No.	Professional learning for staff on implementation of current materials.
Does your district currently provide tutoring or mentoring programs or extended school day, week, or year services?	No.	Begin these services.
Does your district currently provide tutoring or mentoring programs or extended school day, week, or year services?	Yes.	Fund these services.
Does your district currently provide the parents of students with substantial deficiencies in reading with parent contracts, regular updates on their student's progress, and guidance for things the parents can do to help their child at home?	No.	Begin these services.
Does your district currently provide the parents of students with substantial deficiencies in reading with parent contracts, regular updates on their student's progress, and guidance for things the parents can do to help their child at home?	Yes.	Fund these services.
Does your district currently operate a summer program for reading at the K-3 level that employs scientific, research-based instructional practices?	No.	Begin a summer reading program; Consider providing transportation for students who have a substantial deficiency in reading.
Does your district currently operate a summer program for reading at the K-3 level that employs scientific, research-based instructional practices?	Yes.	Fund the program; Consider providing transportation for students who have a substantial deficiency in reading.

Contacts

If you have additional questions about prioritizing the use of your grant funds, please contact Amy J. Williamson at Amy.Williamson@iowa.gov or Barbara Ohlund at Barbara.Ohlund@iowa.gov. For questions about the allowable use of these and other categorical funds, please contact Su McCurdy at Su.Mccurdy@iowa.gov.