



Grant Overview: Student Learning Recovery Grant Program and Fund

Grant Summary

The Student Learning Recovery Grant Program and Fund, created by HEA 1008-2021, provides competitive, discretionary grants to eligible entities who submit a student learning acceleration plan focused on providing recovery learning and remediation services for any K-12 students enrolled in public and nonpublic institutions during the 2020-2021 school year. These grant funds are designed to provide targeted supports for students who have experienced learning loss, have fallen behind in acquiring anticipated grade level academic skills and knowledge, have scored below academic standards or average benchmarks, or are at risk of falling below academic standards due to the disruption in student learning caused by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

Administered by the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE), in consultation with the Indiana State Board of Education (SBOE), this grant provides up to \$150 million from state funds, beginning April 29, 2021, and ending June 30, 2023. Funds from this competitive grant will be awarded to eligible entities to accelerate learning addressed by a systematic plan to remediate and support students in an exclusively in-person learning environment.

Eligible Entities

The following entities are eligible for these funds:

- Community-based organizations,
- Education service centers,
- Institutions of higher education,
- Private, not-for profit, or for-profit organizations, or
- School corporations, charter schools, and nonpublic schools.

Assumptions regarding data and use of funds:

- **Applicants must engage in data sharing agreements with applicable school or corporation organizations to seamlessly submit requisite data points required for return on investment (ROI) and transparency efforts maintained by IDOE.**
- Lead applicants who receive federal grant money associated with COVID-19 learning loss must exhaust all federal funds awarded for a similar purpose prior to using any Student Learning Recovery Grant money.
- Additionally, lead applicants may not transfer any Student Learning Recovery Grant money to a partner organization that received federal grant money associated with COVID-19 learning loss until the partner organization has exhausted all federal grant funds they have been awarded for a similar purpose.

Partnerships

Partnerships between eligible entities and schools are ***required*** for the multi-year application and ***strongly encouraged*** for the single-year application. Applicants who form financial partnerships with one or more eligible entities and/or schools will be prioritized as the IDOE evaluates applications and administers funding.

- IDOE recognizes that some non-school entities may submit applications in partnership with one or more entities. In some instances, applicants may be part of multiple applications. If no school partners are included, a data share agreement must be established between non-school entities and school corporations to ensure that associated required data elements can be collected and delivered to the IDOE.
- Partnerships must designate one lead applicant who will receive grant funds to then distribute to partners as detailed in their budget and need only submit one time through the IDOE-managed process.

Criteria

Early signals of formative assessment data indicate that, due to the disruption in student education caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, students with the greatest academic needs are facing substantial learning gaps. Multiple factors, including disrupted and remote learning, likely

had an increased impact on our most underserved students who lack the resources or support to maintain their academic goals in a virtual learning environment.

Applicants must develop and submit a Student Learning Recovery Plan that satisfies the following components as defined in the assurances noted below.

- The grant narrative and budget documentation:
 - Reflects the intended use of the grant funds and associated federal dollars as applicable.
 - Affirms that all federal funds received by applicants or their partners will be spent before any awarded grants funds are used.
 - Affirms an exclusively in-person learning setting.
 - Affirms efforts will monitor program implementation, collect, share, and submit all relevant student data, and participate in a data sharing agreement with school corporations, as applicable.
 - Affirms that the amount of time each student spends on each academic area will be documented and submitted per a data sharing agreement with school corporations, as applicable.

- Further, applicants must develop and clearly articulate a student learning recovery plan through the grant narrative and budget documentation that satisfies each of the evaluation criteria (outlined in this document) beyond the required assurances.

- Applications lacking the required assurances will not be reviewed for additional criteria evaluation and will not receive grant awards.

Component 1: Research-based methodology for targeting students of greatest academic need

Applicants must describe each element for this component in 100 words or less.

- Describe how the accelerated learning program will identify students disproportionately affected academically by the COVID-19 pandemic during the course of the grant period. It is expected the population of students may vary over time as needs are addressed.

- Describe the support your organization and associated partners will provide for racially and ethnically diverse students, economically disadvantaged students, English learners, and/or Special Education students.
- Describe the means by which relevant student information (STNs, IEPs, etc.) may inform the type of support needed or utilized as part of the accelerated learning program.

Component 2: Evidence-based learning designed to target literacy, mathematics, and/or college and career readiness

Applicants must describe each element for this component in 100 words or less.

- Describe how the proposed accelerated learning program will utilize the Indiana Academic Standards, including Indiana Employability Standards and Social Emotional Learning Competencies, to address recovery learning for college and career readiness.
- Describe the evidence-based learning resources to be procured, licensed or created to ensure students demonstrate growth and proficiency or strategic work-based learning and/or post-secondary credit/credential completions in areas of need aligned to Indiana Academic Standards, including Indiana Employability Standards and Social Emotional Learning Competencies.

Component 3: Metrics for monitoring and recording learning recovery

Applicants must describe each element for this component in 100 words or less.

- Describe how the proposed accelerated learning program will capture information to monitor and subsequently inform growth, achievement, and/or other locally identified data indicators. **If your program is focused on literacy and/or math, one of the indicators must be assessment data.**
- Describe the process for securing relevant student data with applicable school organizations to establish a baseline for requisite learning efforts.
- Describe [SMART goals](#) for defined focus areas to monitor achievement during the course of the grant period. SMART goals must be specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time bound. It is essential that the goals established reflect reasonable benchmarks as subsequent awards may depend on the achievement of outcomes defined.

Appropriations

Up to \$150 million is available for this grant opportunity. Applicants will need to request a specific amount of funding to adequately support their program as detailed through a budget and budget summary. Although there is no minimum or maximum funding threshold, the State expects to award dozens of these competitive grants, and applicants should be cognizant of the wide need for this funding when determining the total requested amount.

The State reserves the right to partially fund or deny applications on a case-by-case basis in alignment with grant requirements and priorities (see Evaluation Criteria). Funds will only be available for use through June 30, 2023.

Non-school entities will need to initiate and/or complete the process to establish themselves as a vendor with the State to receive funds.

Once the grant is fully executed, IDOE can process requests for reimbursement twice per month. Unspent funds must be returned to the state at the end of the grant period. Documentation of expenses to date in relationship to the budget documentation may be requested by IDOE through a quarterly report. IDOE will provide a 30-day notice prior to the deadline for each submission.

Evaluation Criteria

All grant proposals will be evaluated based on multiple criteria, including the defined assurances. Subsequently, once the assurances are confirmed by IDOE, additional criteria will be evaluated for consideration of grant award.

- Providing a research-based methodology regarding how you targeted students to participate in your program with an emphasis on racially and ethnically diverse, economically disadvantaged, English Learners, and/or Special Education students.
- Detailing how your program will provide recovery learning using evidence-based learning to accelerate students in the areas of literacy, math, and/or college and career readiness.
- Establishing metric(s) and defining success for both student learning recovery and program effectiveness.

- Offering an exclusively in-person learning setting.

Multi-year grant proposals will be required to provide additional information, including:

- Applicants must secure a partnership to provide recovery learning and remediation to any K-12 students enrolled in public and nonpublic institutions during the 2020-2021 school year.
- Applicants must submit a professional development plan for the adults serving students for the specific purpose of the program.
- Applicants must detail a social-emotional learning (SEL) plan that aligns with the appropriate grade level Indiana SEL competencies.

Successful grant proposals will be prioritized based upon:

- An association with certified educators, youth development specialists, or social workers.
- An emphasis on serving racially and ethnically diverse, economically disadvantaged, English Learners, and/or Special Education students.
- Internships, dual credit, or career readiness opportunities.

All grant proposals must include the following disclosures:

- Applicants must disclose if they or an applicant partner either have received or are expecting to receive federal funding for a similar purpose to the Student Learning Recovery Grant.
- If the lead applicant, or any applicant partners, have received or are expecting to receive any federal funding for a similar purpose to the Student Learning Recovery Grant, then they must describe how these federal funds will be expended prior to using the Student Learning Recovery Grant funds in this budget narrative.

Data Monitoring

Grant recipients *will be required* to monitor and record the following relevant student data to report to grant administration at the IDOE annually. To extent possible, grant reporting will need to be completed using templates and processes already in use for regular data collection efforts.

All relevant data (see below) will need to be submitted by October 1st each year.

Data collection will focus on three areas:

- Program duration and intensity
 - Program Name and Description
 - Program Focus Subject(s)
 - Program start date and end date
 - Program duration (days)
 - Program minutes per day
- Student Participation
 - Student Testing Number (STN)
 - Student Home School ID
 - Days attended per program
- Metrics established to monitor student growth and achievement. If a grantee is partnering with a school, they must apply the same measures as the school partner. If a grantee is not partnering with a school, a baseline measure of requisite grade level knowledge and skills will need to be determined. This metric could include, but is not limited to:
 - ILEARN
 - IREAD
 - Any [formative assessments](#) confirmed by IDOE
 - Earned Credits from [Indiana College Core](#) and/or CTE credentials
 - Evidence of quality work-based learning
 - [Social and Emotional Proficiency](#) (e.g., Panorama, DESSA, etc.)

Applications and Process

There will be two types of applications for the Student Learning Recovery Grant. Both types of applications will require a budget summary and budget narrative aligned to the project narrative in order to receive approval.

- [Multi-Year Student Learning Recovery Grant Application](#) – This will provide grant recipients with a multi-year funding commitment (through June 2023). This grant application has additional requirements (see Evaluation Criteria).

- [Single Year Student Learning Recovery Grant Application](#) – This will provide grant recipients with one year of funding. One year grant recipients must re-apply the following year to renew their grant funds. There are no additional requirements for this grant application.

Grantees who either do not submit or meet their plan’s designated metrics will have their funding revoked and will be prohibited from applying for this grant in the future.

The submission deadline for this program (which passed Indiana’s General Assembly on April 14, 2021) is 11:59 PM EDT on Wednesday, May 12. IDOE is committed to processing applications as quickly as possible; this rapid timeline will allow grantees to deploy resources for summer programming.

State Contracting

The State of Indiana requires contract vendors to be registered with the State through three separate agencies: Secretary of State’s Office, Indiana Department of Administration, and Auditor of State’s Office. If you are currently not registered with any of the three, or are not active with your registration, please see the information below for assistance.

Secretary of State’s Office (SOS)

If you are not already registered with the Secretary of State, please review their website, <https://inbiz.in.gov/BOS/Home/Index>, or call 317-232-6581 to determine if your registration is required. You may verify if your organization’s registration is active using this link: <https://bsd.sos.in.gov/PublicBusinessSearch>. Please note, individuals are not required to register with SOS.

Auditor of State’s Office (AOS)

If you are not already registered as a vendor with the State of Indiana, please fill out [W9](#) and [Direct Deposit](#) forms and submit to Accounts Payable; accountspayable@doe.in.gov. Direct deposit by electronic funds transfer is required by IC 4-13-2-14.8 unless a waiver is obtained from the Auditor of State.

Indiana Department of Administration (IDOA)

The Indiana Department of Administration (IDOA) has launched the Supplier Contract Management System (SCM) for the processing of state contract and grant agreements. On November 1, 2016, the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) began utilizing SCM for our contract and grant agreements between the State and Vendors. To meet the requirements of SCM and to accomplish this collaboration on your agreement(s), your organization must register to use the SCM system. Instructions for bidder profile registration is located [here](#). The Supplier Portal can be accessed [here](#).

Please complete these registrations at your earliest convenience to avoid any delays in the processing of your agreement(s) and/or payment(s). Also, please note, if you are behind with Indiana taxes this may also cause delays in processing.

Finally, please let us know when you have completed your registrations and inform us of your bidder number which should be provided at the completion of your IDOA Registration.