

Striving Readers Comprehensive Literacy Grant

TEXAS APPLICATION ABSTRACT

The goal of the Texas Striving Readers Comprehensive Literacy Initiative (TSRCLI) is to improve school readiness and success in the areas of language and literacy for disadvantaged students in targeted school districts and their associated early childhood education (ECE) providers who will form *Literacy Lines* to implement the Texas State Literacy Plan (TSLP).

Objectives of the TSRCLI are to (1) increase the oral language and pre-literacy skills of participating preschool children; (2) increase the performance of participating students in K-2 on early reading assessments; (3) increase the percentage of participating students who meet or exceed proficiency on the State English Language Arts assessments in grades 3-12; (4) increase the use of data and data analysis to inform all decision-making in participating districts, campuses, classrooms, and early learning settings; and (5) increase the implementation of effective literacy instruction throughout *Literacy Lines*.

State Activities will be to (1) conduct a needs assessment to determine the greatest areas of need in Texas related to disadvantaged students; 2) collect, analyze, and use high quality, timely data for informed decision-making at all State, Local Education Agency (LEA), campus, classroom, and early learning levels; and (3) provide professional development and technical assistance to subgrantees through State Literacy Partners, highly trained State Literacy Line Liaisons assigned to participating subgrantees, and Education Service Center (ESC) literacy specialists in face-to-face and online environments; (4) provide online professional development and technical assistance about the implementation of the TSLP, beginning with a face-to-face Leadership Summit at the beginning of the grant; (5) provide face-to-face professional development for teachers, coaches, and administrators through the Texas Literacy Institute; (6) monitor the

implementation of the TSRCLI; and (7) analyze data to inform decision-making at all levels.

Priorities of the TSRCLI are to (1) improve school readiness and success from birth through grade 12 in the areas of language and literacy development for disadvantaged students, especially those who are living in poverty, are limited-English-proficient, or who have disabilities; (2) collect, analyze, and use high-quality, timely data to improve instructional practices, policies, and student outcomes at all State, LEA, campus, classroom, and early learning levels; and (3) foster technology-based, professional learning communities to increase teacher effectiveness and encourage the use of technology to support instruction for student access and engagement.

Outcomes of the TSRCLI will consist of yearly progress for all subpopulations on each assessment measure. After three years of grant implementation, subgrantees will show significant progress and be performing at or above the state average for all subpopulations on each measure. Subgrantees will provide evidence of a clearly established *Literacy Line* that meets regularly and has designed a cohesive, vertical plan that addresses the improvement of school readiness in the areas of language and literacy.

Participants in the TSRCLI Texas will provide subgrants to targeted LEAs and their partnering early childhood education (ECE) partners who demonstrate the priority needs and are committed to improving student outcomes by (1) partnering with early childhood providers whose clients “feed into” the LEA student population to improve oral language and early literacy skills; (2) implementing the evidence-based practices of the Texas State Literacy Plan—leadership: assessment and data analysis: standards-based instruction: effective instructional framework: Response to Intervention (RtI); reporting and accountability; and sustainability, and (3) modeling effective practices for other LEAs in the state. TEA will select subgrantees based on priority need with thought given to geography, size, and demographic diversity.