

Administrative Memo

Date: November 2, 2020
To: School Administrators
From: Lisa Sireno, standards and assessment administrator, Office of College and Career Readiness
Subject: CCR-20-004 – Missouri Comprehensive Literacy State Development Program Applications

The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) was awarded an \$18 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education for its Comprehensive Literacy State Development (CLSD) program. The Missouri CLSD program helps implement DESE’s commitment to literacy, outlined in the agency’s [Show-Me Success plan](#). Its goal is to build educator knowledge of evidence-based literacy strategies and effectively teaching reading and writing to all students.

The grant will be distributed over five years, allowing the state to advance literacy skills for children from birth through grade 12. DESE is now accepting applications from schools that wish to participate.

Missouri CLSD program services focus on *sustainability of literacy achievement*. These services coordinate with other DESE initiatives and provide for integration of services at the local level. Schools selected through the competitive sub-grant process will receive:

- Literacy assets and needs assessment;
- Support for developing or refining your local education agency’s (LEA’s) literacy plan;
- High-quality, job-embedded professional development for your literacy team;
- Reading specialist certification opportunities for one teacher in each participating school;
- Online training courses that offer competency-based micro-credentials; and
- Ongoing external evaluation of the effectiveness of CLSD services in your school.

The opportunity to participate in Missouri’s CLSD program is open to all Missouri public and charter schools. Priority will be given to schools with these characteristics:

- Large numbers or percentages of children reading or writing below grade level;
- Significant percentage of students who qualify for free or reduced-price lunch; and
- Geographic location in economically distressed areas identified by the federal government in a [Qualified Opportunity Zone \(QOZ\)](#). This [interactive map](#) can help you determine if your school boundary overlaps a QOZ. Submit QOZ questions to Lisa Scroggs at literacy@dese.mo.gov.

Missouri public and charter schools interested in participating in the Missouri’s CLSD program will find the CLSD application and additional information on [DESE’s CLSD webpage](#). The deadline to apply is November 20, 2020. Participating schools will be announced on or before January 15, 2021.

Contact Lisa Scroggs at literacy@dese.mo.gov with questions about Missouri's CLSD program or the application process.