



The Section 35a(4) ISD Early Literacy Coaching Grant is a grant that designates \$112,500 for Intermediate School Districts (ISDs) or Regional Education Service Agencies (RESAs) to hire Early Literacy Coaches to service their local districts and schools with the purpose of working directly with teachers to support in improving literacy for grades pre-K-3.

### **Frequently Asked Questions for Section 35a(4)**

#### **• Who are the grant funds intended for?**

- Intermediate School Districts (ISD) and Regional Educational Services Agencies (RESA).

#### **• How can the grant funds be used?**

- Grant funds can be used to hire Early Literacy Coaches at the ISD or RESA. This can include salary, benefits, and materials utilized by the coach.

#### **• Will the ISD allocations remain the same for 2021-22?**

- Each ISD in the state is eligible to receive \$112,500 per coach from MDE and each ISD is eligible to maintain their current grant funding. If any ISD chooses to reduce their number of allocations, those allocations will be distributed to eligible ISDs based on the percentage of the total statewide number of pupils in grades K to 3 who meet the income eligibility standards for the federal free and reduced-price lunch programs who are enrolled in districts in the ISDs. If applicable, those ISDs who are eligible for additional funding will be contacted by the MDE.

#### **• What is the expenditure period for this grant?**

- The grant expenditure period is October 1, 2021 – September 30, 2022.

#### **• When will the ISD receive grant funds?**

- Grant funds are estimated to start disbursing in the October State Aid payment.

#### **• Does this grant allow for carryover?**

- Yes, the grant allows for one year of carryover. Intent to carry over unused funds must be emailed to [MDE-EarlyLiteracy@michigan.gov](mailto:MDE-EarlyLiteracy@michigan.gov) by October 31, 2022. Once the carryover request is approved, the ISD/RESA will have until September 30, 2023 to expend or return all unused carryover funds.

- **Can the ISD/RESA directly hire a coach?**

- Yes, the ISD/RESA can directly hire an early literacy coach. The early literacy coach would be an employee of the ISD/RESA.

- **What if we have a district who would like to use the funds to support a coach that they have hired?**

- The funds are intended for ISDs/RESAs. ISDs/RESAs may accept early literacy coaching funds and work with a local district to establish an educator on loan process for the purpose of identifying early literacy coaches. The educator on loan coach would be engaged in the work outlined in the Grant Assurances through the ISDs/RESAs, but will remain an employee of their district. These funds cannot be distributed directly from MDE to a local district for this purpose.

- **Can Section 35a(4) funds be used to fund existing early literacy coaches?**

- 35a(4) funds are intended to increase coaching capacity in Michigan and will ideally be used to fund a full FTE Early Literacy Coaching position whose activities will be: directed by the ISD, participating in all ELTF Early Literacy Coaching Network activities, supporting increased early literacy knowledge, providing consistent messaging and professional learning for Michigan K-3 teachers. This may include hiring of new early literacy coaches or redefining current early literacy coaching positions.

- **Can the \$112,500 coaching allocation be used to hire multiple part time coaches?**

- Yes, the ISD/RESA can use the allocation(s) to hire multiple part time coaches if needed. Please keep in mind that part time early literacy coaches will still need to abide by all the grant assurances and attend/participate in the required training and networking.

- **Can a district contribute supplemental funds to offset an educator on loan literacy coach above the \$112,500 provided by the ISD?**

- Yes, the district can contribute supplemental funds above the \$112,500 allocation for the educator on loan literacy coach if needed.

- **Who is responsible for ensuring the ISD coach adheres to the Grant Assurances?**

- The ISD/RESA is responsible for ensuring the Early Literacy Coach adheres to the grant assurances in the grant application. The grant assurances can be found by using your MEIS account to log-in to the application at:  
<https://mdoe.state.mi.us/gems/public/QuestionnaireHome.aspx?code=i4a9tddf>  
<https://mdoe.state.mi.us/gems/public/QuestionnaireHome.aspx?code=i4a9tddf>.

- **How do we report who we have hired as an ISD Coach and what their role and responsibility is?**

- After the coach is hired it is important to notify MAISA so they can update the coaching information.

- **Do the ISD Early Literacy Coaches have to service charters/public school academies?**

- Yes, the ISD Early Literacy Coach(es) have to service the charters/public school academies within their ISD.

- **Is each coach required to be assigned to a particular district?**

- The ISD has autonomy to determine how coaches will work with schools. The grant requires that all schools have access to the literacy coach.

- **Can ISDs assign coaches all or a portion of their FTE within the PreK setting in order to support pupils reading at grade level by the end of grade 3?**

- Yes, in the 2021-22 legislation, pre-K is included.