



# Striving Readers Comprehensive Literacy



## **STATE FORMULA GRANTS APPLICATION INFORMATION**

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# Background



## Striving Readers Comprehensive Literacy Program (SRCL)

- Established by Congress with a total appropriation of \$200 million in fiscal year (FY) 2010
- Funds must advance literacy skills for children from birth to grade 12
  - A big change from previous literacy programs, which concentrated on specific grade levels
- Not in the President's budget for 2011, although a similar literacy program (*Effective Teaching and Learning: Literacy*) is included
- Different from the Striving Readers Adolescent Literacy program but funded under the same authority
- Of the total appropriation, \$10 million is reserved for **formula grants** to States

# Purpose of SRCL Formula Grants



To establish and support a **State Literacy Team** with expertise in literacy development and education for children from birth to grade 12 that will assist the State in developing a **comprehensive literacy plan**

# Overview



- \$10,000,000 in available funds
  - Awarded to States on a formula basis based on each State's share of funds under Part A of Title I
  - No State will receive less than \$150,000 (an estimated 41 States will receive \$150,000)
  - No match required
- Eligibility: SEAs
- Application package
  - Available at <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/strivingreaders-literacy/index.html>
  - **CFDA Number** 84.371B
- Deadline: September 30, 2010

# Requirements: State Literacy Teams



- Must consist of a minimum of nine members
- Must include members with expertise in:
  - ✦ Literacy development and instruction for children in all ages: birth to school entry; kindergarten through grade 5; and grades 6 through 12
  - ✦ Managing and implementing an effective literacy program at the school, district, and State levels
  - ✦ Evaluation
  - ✦ Planning for and implementing a response-to-intervention (RTI) model
  - ✦ Screening and performance measurement in the areas of phonological awareness, word recognition/phonics, vocabulary, comprehension, fluency, and writing
  - ✦ Validated interventions and instruction for struggling readers, English Language Learners, and students with disabilities
  - ✦ Teacher, coach, and principal professional development
  - ✦ Teacher preparation and State licensure/accreditation in literacy development and instruction

# Things to Consider: State Literacy Teams



- One person on the team might meet more than one area of expertise, or a team might need several people to meet one requirement
- Look at existing teams in your State and how they can work together (e.g., Head Start Advisory Councils, higher education organizations)
- Common core standards may impact comprehensive literacy planning
- As long as it doesn't get in the way of performing the work described in the grant application, SEAs may impose other duties or requirements on the team

# Requirements: Comprehensive Literacy Plan



- Must include an implementation plan to ensure high-quality instruction in reading and writing from birth to grade 12
- A draft of the plan must be submitted to the U.S. Department of Education by February 1, 2011

# Use of Funds



- Funds may be used as reasonable and necessary to support:
  - the establishment of the literacy team
  - development of the plan, and
  - implementation
- Funds will be available until September 30, 2012 (including Tydings year)

# Reporting/Evaluation



- Each SEA will provide ED with an annual update about the status of activities undertaken with grant funds
- A draft of a comprehensive State literacy plan is due February 1, 2011
- No formal, external evaluation is required of the State for the SRCL formula grant

# Application



- Short, and consists of
  - Narrative responses to each of 6 questions (not to exceed 5 pages total)
  - A signed coversheet
  - Two signed assurance forms
- Can be submitted electronically or by hardcopy (paper format)
- Due: Thursday, September 30, 2010

# Application Questions



1. Does the SEA currently have a State Literacy Team?
  - If yes, please describe the current team including roles and responsibilities, areas of expertise of each team member, team or team members' involvement in current and/or past literacy initiatives and lessons learned from the work of the team.
  - If no, describe the SEA's plan for establishing a State Literacy Team.
  
- 2 Describe how the State Literacy Team meets the requirement to have expertise in the area of literacy development and education for children from birth through grade 12.

# Application Questions Continued



3. Describe how the State Literacy Team will assist the SEA in developing a comprehensive literacy plan.
4. Describe how the State Literacy Team will be managed and how decisions will be made.
5. Describe how the State will coordinate work of the State Literacy Team with other related teams, such as the Early Childhood Advisory Council, the Title I Committee of Practitioners, and State higher education committees.

# Application Questions Continued



6. Describe how the State will ensure that the State Literacy Team includes representatives from different agencies and organizations including the state education agencies, local education agencies, higher education and the research community.

# Other SRCL Program Components



- In addition to formula grants, Striving Readers Comprehensive Literacy will fund:
  - Competitive grants
  - Support for literacy activities at Bureau of Indian Education schools and outlying areas (Guam, American Samoa, etc.)

# SRCL Competitive Grants



- Grants ranging from approximately \$10 million to \$50 million will be awarded to SEAs. SEAs will use 95% of the award to make subgrants to LEAs and early childhood providers using the following formula:
  - 15% for birth to Pre-K
  - 40% for grades K-5
  - 40% for grades 6-12, with an equitable distribution between middle and high school
- Notice of the program is expected to be in the Federal Register in late 2010, with applications due in the Spring of 2011
- States can use their comprehensive literacy plan, developed under the SRCL formula grant, to support their application for a SRCL competitive grant

# Resources



- Additional FAQs
  - Application package
  - <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/strivingreaders-literacy/faq.html>
- SRCL program info
  - [www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov) (note: search for “Striving Readers *Comprehensive Literacy*” to find the current program)
- All other questions:

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Deborah Spitz (202) 260-3793	Katie Chase (202) 205-0266

  - <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/strivingreaders-literacy/index.html>