

704 KAR 3:480. Reading diagnostic and intervention grants.

RELATES TO: KRS 158.070(8), 158.792, 158.794

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: KRS 156.070(4), 158.792(3)

NECESSITY, FUNCTION, and CONFORMITY: KRS 156.160 authorizes the Kentucky Board of Education to promulgate administrative regulations establishing standards which school districts shall meet in student, program, service and operational performance. KRS 158.792(3) requires the board to promulgate administrative regulations to establish an application process and the criteria for funding reading diagnostic and intervention grants from the Read to Achieve Act of 2005, established in KRS 158.792. This administrative regulation establishes the application process and selection criteria.

Section 1. Selection of Grants. (1) A public school that enrolls primary students, including the Kentucky School for the Blind and the Kentucky School for the Deaf, shall be eligible to apply for a grant.

(2) A school council or, if none exists, a school, may apply for a grant individually or jointly with another school.

(3) A grant application shall only be advanced by a school.

(4) A grant application shall not override an individual school council's policy-making authority over instructional practices to meet identified reading needs pursuant to KRS 160.345.

(5) A grant application shall be based on selection of a reading diagnostic and reading intervention program as established in KRS 158.792 (1)(b) and (c) that meets identified reading needs.

(6) A grant application shall indicate the fiscal agent as a local board of education or other entity eligible to enter into a memorandum of agreement to receive state education funds. The fiscal agent for the Kentucky Schools for the Blind or Deaf shall be the Kentucky Department of Education.

(7) Funds shall be made available to an eligible applicant through a Request for Application (RFA) process. The contents of each RFA notice shall be subject to approval by the Reading Diagnostic and Intervention Grant Steering Committee.

(8) To be eligible for funding, an application shall:

(a) Include the contents required by KRS 158.792(3)(b); and

(b) Specify the matching funds that will be allocated to directly support the implementation of the reading diagnostic and intervention program, as required by KRS 158.792(4).

(9) A grant application shall be subject to approval by the principal and superintendent to ensure that the grant application includes adequate resources to implement the reading diagnostic and intervention program. The use of categorical funds for matching funds shall be subject to approval by the local board of education.

(10) Matching funds shall include funds allocated by or under the discretion of the school council, or if none exists, by the local board of education.

(11) Matching funds may be identified from other state, federal, local or nonpublic sources, within the uses and conditions set forth by the source of those funds.

(12) The criteria for selection of applications for funding shall include the following:

(a) Identification of literacy needs to include a description of the comprehensive reading model that is currently in place at the school and the compelling need for the reading diagnostic and intervention grant;

(b) Identification of the research-based reading diagnostic and intervention program as established in KRS 158.792 to be funded through the grant;

(c) Professional Development Plan describing a plan for building capacity within the school through professional development specific to reading diagnostics and intervention;

(d) Description of the plan for implementing the reading diagnostic and reading intervention program;

(e) Assessment and evaluation plan describing how the school will evaluate the continuous progress of students involved in the intervention program; and

(f) Budget and budget narrative to describe the fiscal resources needed for the program, any matching funds or cash contributions used to support the program, and a detailed explanation of how the funds will be used.

The Department of Education shall make available materials to assist a school in the preparation of a grant application.

(14) Independent evaluators shall review the applications. The Reading Diagnostic and Intervention Grant Steering Committee shall make recommendations for funding based upon the results of the review. The independent evaluators shall have:

(a) Knowledge of 704 KAR 3:303, the Required Program of Studies; and

(b) Understanding and experience in early instruction, including a comprehensive reading program as described in KRS 158.792(1)(a).

Section 2. Grant Allocations and Requirements. (1) The award size or range of grants shall be determined by the Reading Diagnostic and Intervention Grant Steering Committee.

(2) In determining the amount of the grant award, the following shall be considered:

(a) The cost of proposed activities needed to implement the reading diagnostic and intervention program selected; and

(b) The need for and amount of other funds to support activities related to the reading diagnostic and intervention program.

(3) Grant funds shall be limited to direct costs required to implement the reading diagnostic and intervention program.

(4) Monitoring of awarded grants shall include at least the following:

(a) Fiscal reports submitted to the Department of Education;

(b) Program evaluation reports on the implementation of the reading diagnostic and intervention program; and

(c) Documentation of the impact of the reading diagnostic and intervention program on the reading of qualified students served to include student progress on reading assessments.

(5) Prior to submitting each annual report to the Interim Joint Committee on Education as required by KRS 158.792(6), the Department of Education shall, in consultation with the Reading Diagnostic and Intervention Grant Steering Committee, provide a written report to the Kentucky Board of Education regarding grant activities and the use of grant funds. (25 Ky.R. 1770; Am. 2150; eff. 3-1-99; 32 Ky.R. 1336; 1616; eff. 3-31-2006.)