**FAQ FY24 RDIF Grant**

1. Would this grant cover part of the cost for a K-3 Reading Intervention Coordinator position that is working to identify students’ needs, working with teachers on implementing research-based interventions, and facilitating parent meetings for Reading Improvement plans?

 No. The RDIF Mini Grant funds are only approved for:

1. Purchasing a HQIR to implement tier 2 and/or tier 3 structured literacy interventions, (Primary, or tier 1, HQIRs rated green on EdReports may be considered for purchase with mini-grant funds for the purpose of implementing tier 2 instruction) and/or
2. The cost of vendor provided high-quality professional learning (HQPL) connected to an existing or newly purchased HQIR to support tier 2 and/or tier 3 structured literacy interventions, and/or
3. The cost for extended time or release time for teachers to engage in professional learning of the existing or newly purchased HQIR to support tier 2 and/or tier 3 structured literacy interventions.

1. We have purchased materials for the 24-25 school year for tier 2/3 intervention using separate pool of funding that needed to be spent before a sunset date. Would it be wise to apply for this grant to extend the user license (online access) for tier 2/3 materials for the 25-26 school year? And include any training that can be spent on the 24-25 school year?

Yes. RDIF Mini Grant funds can be used to purchase a HQIR to implement tier 2 and/or tier 3 structured literacy interventions for the ‘25-’26 school year, as well as the cost of vendor provided high-quality professional learning connected to an existing or newly purchased HQIR to support tier 2 and/or tier 3 structured literacy interventions.

1. Did I hear correctly that we could pay for an HQIR to be used for the 25-26 school year since the district had already purchased an HQIR for the 24-25 year?

Yes. RDIF Mini Grant funds may be used to purchase a structured literacy reading HQIR for tiers 2 and/or 3 for the ‘25-’26 school year.

1. Can the grant fund a purchase in 24-25 that is a multi-year contract with a vendor for HQIR for years beyond the 24-25 school year?

Yes, if the HQIR supports the implementation of structured literacy practices for tier 2 and/or tier 3 reading instruction. Primary or tier 1 HQIRs rated green on EdReports may be considered for purchase with mini-grant funds for the purpose of implementing tier 2 instruction.

1. I know that a district can apply on behalf of a school, but can the district apply on behalf of the district and distribute one grant for 40,000 across schools based on need?

No. Districts apply on behalf of individual schools.

1. On page 1 of the RFA it states that districts are eligible to apply on behalf of the school(s) to support K-3 students in reaching proficiency in reading and writing.  On page 13, the RFA Application Cover Page, it asks for a specific school name/address.  I just want to clarify if this grant would serve more than one school in a district or if a separate mini grant would be needed for each school.

All public-school districts in Kentucky and Kentucky School for the Blind (KSB) and Kentucky School for the Deaf (KSD) are eligible to apply on behalf of the school(s) to support K-3 students in reaching proficiency in reading and writing.  A separate application is required for each school in the district.

1. Can you share links to the High-Quality Professional Learning (HQPL) in Question 3 and the Reading and Writing Instructional Resources Alignment Rubric and accompanying explanation in Question 5.

 The following links should provide the resources you requested:

 [High-Quality Professional Learning (HQPL)](https://www.education.ky.gov/curriculum/standards/kyacadstand/Documents/Characteristics_of_HQPL.pdf)

 [Curriculum Implementation Professional Learning Plan](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/ap/w-59584e83/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fstaffkyschools-my.sharepoint.com%2F%3Aw%3A%2Fg%2Fpersonal%2Fdanielle_ward_education_ky_gov%2FEaq56_mNV_9GrNCvDH4MVpAB6tyCtIzddt2gP8l5j9yFqA%3Fe%3D4%253aPUwzAh%26fromShare%3Dtrue%26at%3D9&data=05%7C02%7Cjennifer.bryant%40education.ky.gov%7C9de5bd9c93514ee7a67c08dc27283ace%7C9360c11f90e64706ad0025fcdc9e2ed1%7C0%7C0%7C638428300938691135%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=KqgN5e3ZPfe4ENRgMu5CgL34HfoqYa9Nw%2BfjpaYAfaU%3D&reserved=0)

[High-Quality Instructional Resources – KYstandards](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fkystandards.org%2Fstandards-resources%2Finst-mats-align-rubrics%2F&data=05%7C02%7Ckderfp%40education.ky.gov%7Ca4490a6969d347deb9e508dc2356751e%7C9360c11f90e64706ad0025fcdc9e2ed1%7C0%7C0%7C638424101456620030%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=UIKi8fXAZq%2FqWxkzzdJuAR42V6U7oMhwzl4e%2BEjaMLU%3D&reserved=0)  (Scroll to the bottom of this page to find the rubrics)

1. Is it permissible for a district to apply on behalf of the district rather than a specific school?

The public school district must submit a separate application for each school interested in applying for the grant.

1. If the previous year’s grant paid for one program (Sonday) but two components (LPL & Sonday 1) and it stated that LPL would be used by interventionist for Tier 3 and Sonday 1 would be used for T2 could this year’s grant be written for a new HQIR to be used for T3 or because the initial grant stated T2/T3 only supplemental resources for the implementation of Sonday?

Schools previously awarded the RDIF Mini Grant may apply but only to further implement the HQIR identified in the previous award or to select an HQIR for a different tier of instruction.

1. Can you purchase i-Ready?

i-Ready consists of two parts: Diagnostic and Personalized Instruction. RDIF funds cannot be used for the purchase of approved early literacy assessments. The iReady personalized instruction component does not align with the KDE’s definition of structured literacy HQIRs as listed in the RFA.

1. Is Reading League optional?

 The use of the Reading League’s *Curriculum Evaluation Guidelines* is optional but may be referred to for support in understanding and confirming the potential HQIR includes the Key Criteria for Reading Foundations.

1. For the part of the grant that provides extra pay for teachers, can that be used as a stipend for the teachers to complete LETRS?

 No.

1. If we plan to purchase a new tier 1 reading program for ‘24, can we select the same program to offer tier 2 and/or tier 3 instruction? Does this count as supplementing and not supplanting?

 Yes. Primary, or tier 1, HQIRs rated green on EdReports may be considered for purchase with mini-grant funds for the purpose of implementing tier 2 instruction.

1. Is a “train the trainer” approach acceptable? For example, must all staff training be provided by the vendor, or could the vendor provide training to a coach who then trains the remaining staff through ongoing professional learning?

 Instructional coaches may deliver PL for the RDIF Mini Grant if the application has shown that the PL plan is aligned to the characteristics of HQPL. An initial vendor training is required, but the instructional coach may continue the learning throughout the year.

1. If the purchase cost of the program exceeds $40,000, can the full $40,000 go toward the purchase of the resource?

 Yes, however, all teachers who will be implementing the HQIR for tier 2 and/or tier 3 structured literacy instruction shall be trained in the reading intervention resources. So, professional learning for successful implementation of the HQIR would need to be included in the cost or paid for from another funding source.

1. What if a program is new and not yet rated? I am looking at UFLI.

 Without external validation or research-based reviews, instructional resources have **NOT** demonstrated they are high-quality. The benefit of organizations like EdReports, resources such as the National Academic Intervention Tools Chart and the Evidence for ESSA page is that the programs have been evaluated by a third-party, not just internally by the vendor itself. **To qualify as a high-quality instructional resource, and to be approved for funding, schools must have external evidence/research addressing the effectiveness of the resource.**

 UFLI is a research-based and evidence-based initiative with the University of Florida’s Literacy Institute. The program and resources are founded in structured literacy and endorsed by the LETRS professional development course. Although it is a new and unrated program, there is external evidence and research addressing the effectiveness of the resource.

1. Can we purchase new licenses related to the approved programs purchased through the funds last year to continue work within those HQIRs?

 Yes. Schools previously awarded the RDIF Mini Grant may apply to further implement the HQIR identified in the previous award.

1. Can you give an example of a structured literacy program and a balanced literacy program?

 More information concerning structured literacy practices and typical literacy practices can be found at the following link: <https://www.education.ky.gov/curriculum/EarlyLiteracy/Pages/structured_literacy.aspx>  In addition, it is worth noting any program or resource using a 3-cueing system model is not considered to be a HQIR and will **not** be approved by the KDE.

1. Can we have some examples of HQIRs that were approved last year?

 The RDIF Mini Grant provides funding to purchase instructional resources that support the implementation of structured literacy practices and align with the KDE’s definition of HQIRs. Applicants wishing to use funds to purchase a HQIR for tier 2 and/or tier 3 instruction should consider the guidance found on pages 3 and 4 of the RDIF RFA.

1. May grant funds be used to provide PD for classified staff?

 All instructional staff implementing the HQIR shall be trained in the reading resource.

1. What data or information needs to be submitted after the grant-funded year?  For example, if we receive the grant this year, is there anything we will need to keep track of and submit after the grant in 2025?

 Per KRS 158.792, the Kentucky Board of Education administrative regulations shall “establish the minimum evaluation process for an annual review of each grant recipient’s program and progress.” Evaluating the use of funds will include a survey providing feedback on professional learning experiences and the implementation of the HQIR.

1. Can we have a copy of the KDE survey grantees will have to implement and if not, can you provide more detailed information about the survey questions and type of data that grantees would report?

 Per KRS 158.792, the Kentucky Board of Education administrative regulations shall “establish the minimum evaluation process for an annual review of each grant recipient’s program and progress.” The end of year evaluation survey is not available now.

1. For professional learning - Could we use funds to support the research-based practices for the program with scaffolding from another vendor other than the program selected for the validity and to ensure the rigor of what is taught?

 Possibly. Applicants would need to make a case for this within their grant application.

1. Is the Instructional Resources Alignment Rubric the same as last year?

 Yes.

1. Our district has ONE K-2 building and ONE 3-5 school.  Would we do two separate applications? One for k-2 and one for just third grade only? They are separate schools, and they have their own school numbers.

 Separate applications would need to be submitted.

1. Since the survey will require IRB approval, will the survey be optional?

 Per KRS 158.792, the Kentucky Board of Education administrative regulations shall “establish the minimum evaluation process for an annual review of each grant recipient’s program and progress.” Evaluating the use of funds will include a survey providing feedback on professional learning experiences and the implementation of the HQIR. The survey will not require IRB approval.

1. LETRS also uses Wilson Fundations frequently in their example videos, but it is not rated green on EdReports, would this be like UFLI if we provide the evidence?

 Without external validation or research-based reviews, instructional resources have **NOT** demonstrated they are high-quality. The benefit of organizations like EdReports, resources such as the National Academic Intervention Tools Chart and the Evidence for ESSA page is that the programs have been evaluated by a third-party, not just internally by the vendor itself. **To qualify as a high-quality instructional resource, and to be approved for funding, schools must have external evidence/research addressing the effectiveness of the resource.**

 Wilson Fundations, unlike UFLI, has been rated by EdReports. Applicants wishing to request funding for Wilson Fundations would need to address the rating by EdReports and provide recent research addressing the effectiveness of the resource.

1. Do we have to include all K-3? Can we focus on just one grade in that group?

 No, applications do not have to include all grades K-3. Yes, applicants may choose to apply for a specific grade for tier 2 and/or tier 3 intervention.

1. If a single HQIR is addressing tier 2 and tier 3 interventions, do you just need 1 rubric (part 5)

 An Alignment Rubric should be submitted for each resource. There is an Alignment Rubric for K-2 resources and another for 3-12 resources.

1. If teachers have been trained with the resources purchased for tier 2 intervention, but we are purchasing additional products in the program, would we need more professional learning provided? For example, if we bought the decodable books and assessments that go along with the phonics program that we purchased last year.

 Professional learning for a newly purchased and/or existing tier 2 and/or tier 3 structured literacy resource is required.

1. I do not see fringe on the budget form.  Does this mean the district has to “eat” the fringe costs associated with any salary expenses?

 The RDIF Mini Grant does not cover fringe expenses.

1. Can funds pay for teachers who are participating in training related to the Kentucky Academic Standards for Reading and Writing and how do resources align with those?

 Professional learning funded through the RDIF Mini Grant must be specific and aligned to an existing or newly purchased HQIR itself, not on the *KAS for Reading and Writing* in general.  As stated in the RFA, RDIF Mini Grant funds can be used to purchase a HQIR to implement tier 2 and/or tier 3 structured literacy interventions, the cost of **vendor provided** high-quality professional learning **connected to an existing or newly purchased HQIR** to support tier 2 and/or tier 3 structured literacy interventions, and/or the cost for extended time or release time for teachers to engage in professional learning of the existing or newly purchased HQIR to support tier 2 and/or tier 3 structured literacy interventions.

1. If related PD sessions come up later related to this work at a cooperative, etc., can we use the sub pay to send teachers to those trainings?

 Yes, but grant funds must be used by June 30, 2025.

1. Can you focus on a single tier?  (Either Tier 2 or Tier 3)

 Yes.

1. For the alignment rubric, if the resource we choose is for K-3, would we need to do the K-2 rubric AND the 3-12 rubric?

 Yes.

1. Is Conference registration and travel permissible?  For example, KRA or the RTS (this summer)?

 Professional learning must be tied to a newly purchased or existing HQIR – generally, a conference would not be approved professional learning. Travel for reading instructional staff to attend high-quality, curriculum-based professional learning for newly purchased or existing tier 2 and/or tier 3 HQIRs is permissible.

1. Can the funds be used to buy instructional material to use with an HQIR?  For example, phonics kits and magnetic letters to supplement UFLI?

 Yes. RDIF Mini Grant funds can be used to purchase instructional materials to successfully support the implementation of a newly purchased or previously purchased structured literacy HQIR.

1. Is there a threshold score that you must earn to be awarded the grant, or will the top 100 scoring applicants be awarded grants?

 No, there is not a threshold score. The top 100 scoring applicants will be awarded.

1. Can we purchase multiple resources? For example, if we purchase a resource to supplement an existing program to boost tier 2 instruction and then buy a new tier 3 or an additional tier 2 intervention product. Clarification - We needed more materials for a previously purchased resource to supplement current tier 2 instruction.  However, I was wondering if in addition to those materials, could we potentially purchase an additional tier 2 instructional resource or if could we only purchase a tier 3 material after those supplemental resources.

 To purchase materials to support a previously purchased HQIR, the HQIR must be based on structured literacy practices and meet the KDE’s definition of an HQIR. Yes, you could also purchase a HQIR for a different tier of instruction. Schools previously awarded the RDIF Mini Grant may apply but only to further implement the HQIR identified in the previous award or to select an HQIR for a different tier of instruction.

1. Is there a general number of studies/evidence sources that makes something go from moderate to strong evidence?

 Applicants looking for information to evaluate the effectiveness of a particular HQIR, please see the recommended guidelines on page 4 of the RFA.

1. What do we do with the leftover funds if we only spent $38,112?

 Please refer to the Allowable use of Funds on page 8 of the RFA. All RDIF funds must be spent by June 30, 2025.

1. Are we required to have a rubric for existing resources being used?

 An alignment rubric for a previously purchased HQIR is required to apply for funding to further implement the HQIR through supplemental materials and/or professional learning.

1. If we have 5 elementary schools, is it acceptable for them all to request the same resource and have similar applications?

 Yes, however, each school should have its own KSA and universal screener data.

1. It says to submit in one PDF, which includes the unredacted version, and redacted version, etc. correct?

 The RFA states to submit one email that should contain three PDF files.

1. An original, unredacted copy of the entire application, parts 1-5.
2. A redacted copy of the entire application, parts 1-5.
3. An unredacted copy of the Rubric, Part 5.

1. If an HQIR was purchased last year, can we purchase resources to help implement it or only more PD?

 Yes. Schools may apply to further implement a previously purchased HQIR through the purchase of additional instructional materials and/or professional learning to enhance the successful implementation of the HQIR. The previously purchased HQIR must meet the KDE’s definition of an HQIR and be founded on structured literacy practices.

1. If we already have a tier 2 intervention being implemented for fluency instruction and want to purchase one for comprehension, do we need to fill out the Alignment rubric for the tier 2 intervention for fluency too? Do we need to fill out the Alignment rubric for current interventions being used that already align to structured literacy? Do we have to fill out the rubric to prove that our current interventions meet the requirements (these were not purchased with the grant) and show how our intended resource meets the requirement as well as part of our plan?

 Previously purchased HQIRs will only need to be evaluated through an Alignment Rubric if applicants are requesting funding to further implement the previously purchased HQIR. Applicants will need to demonstrate how the “intended resource,” or the resource you want to fund through the RDIF mini grant meets the requirements of an HQIR and fits into the school’s literacy plan.

1. We have had some instances when the PDF is too large to send through email.  Is this a concern with the size and number of the rubrics?

 The RDIF Mini grant will be the fourth time KDE has offered a grant with the same type of requirements and the PDF sizes have not been a reported issue.

1. Can we purchase the same intervention to be used across multiple grade levels?

 Yes.

1. Is there a page limit for Budget Summary?

 Budget summaries are typically 1-2 pages.

1. Is there a limit on how recently an HQIR has been purchased for the RDIF mini grant?  Can a school apply for a grant to offer vendor-provided professional learning to teachers who furnish Tier 2 and Tier 3 interventions using an HQIR that was purchased 5 or 6 years previously?

 Previously purchased HQIRs must be evaluated through an Alignment Rubric if applicants request funding to further implement the purchased HQIR. If the resource is an HQIR, the funding may be used for curriculum-based professional learning aligned to the resource.

1. I am unable to open the link for the RDIF Professional Learning plan.  Can you send me a copy of the document?

 [Curriculum\_Implementation\_Professional\_Learning\_Plan\_Template (2)](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/ap/w-59584e83/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fstaffkyschools-my.sharepoint.com%2F%3Aw%3A%2Fg%2Fpersonal%2Fdanielle_ward_education_ky_gov%2FEaq56_mNV_9GrNCvDH4MVpAB6tyCtIzddt2gP8l5j9yFqA%3Fe%3D4%253aPUwzAh%26fromShare%3Dtrue%26at%3D9&data=05%7C02%7Cjennifer.bryant%40education.ky.gov%7C9de5bd9c93514ee7a67c08dc27283ace%7C9360c11f90e64706ad0025fcdc9e2ed1%7C0%7C0%7C638428300938691135%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=KqgN5e3ZPfe4ENRgMu5CgL34HfoqYa9Nw%2BfjpaYAfaU%3D&reserved=0)  [High-Quality Instructional Resources – KYstandards](https://kystandards.org/standards-resources/inst-mats-align-rubrics/)

1. If HQIR were purchased last year can money for this year's grant only be spent on additional Professional Development or can resources to use with the HQIR be purchased?

 Previously purchased HQIRs must be evaluated through an Alignment Rubric if applicants request funding to further implement the purchased HQIR. If the resource is an HQIR, the funding may be used for curriculum-based professional learning aligned to the resource

1. We are an Early Childhood Center that only contains preschool and kindergarten students; therefore, we do not have KSA data.  Can we apply for the grant and include NWEA Map and Dibels data or should we include the district KSA data for the elementary schools that our students feed into? or include both?

 Please state the reasons you do not have KSA data in your narrative and incorporate the data you do have.

1. Our district is looking to write this grant for our elementary schools. We were wanting to write it for NWEA MAP Fluency.  However, I did not see this listed.  Is it permissible to write this grant for that screener/progress monitoring tool?

 RDIF funds cannot be used for the purchase of approved early literacy assessments. The RDIF Mini Grant is funded specifically to help districts select high-quality instructional resources that support the implementation of structured literacy practices for tier 2 and/or tier 3 reading instruction in kindergarten through grade three (3).

1. May we write the grant to continue the implementation of the previous RDIF grant?  We plan to purchase additional materials and train all new/transferred hires.

 Schools who have been previously awarded the RDIF Mini Grant may apply to further implement the HQIR identified in the previous award.

1. Can we allocate funding for materials that span multiple years, including workbooks and online resources?

 Yes, as long as the resources meet the definition of a structured literacy high-quality instructional resource.