# FAQ

Striving Readers Comprehensive Literacy Grant (SRCL)
Kentucky Department of Education (KDE)

**Question:** When will the Request for Application (RFA) be released?
**Answer:** Early January

**Question:** What are the eligibility requirements?
**Answer:** Eligibility is based on the free/reduced percentages at the high school level. In the RFA a specific percentage is named. If a high school falls at that number or above, then that high school and its feeder schools and early care providers are eligible to apply.

**Question:** If a district has multiple high schools, is it possible to apply for more than one grant award?
**Answer:** Yes, a district may apply on the behalf up to three (3) feeder systems if the high school for each feeder system is eligible.

**Question:** Am I required to submit an Intent to Apply form in order to submit an application?
**Answer:** It is strongly recommended that a district submit an Intent to Apply form in order. It should be submitted to KDE on or before February 9, 2018. However, a district is under no obligation to apply because the Intent to Apply was submitted. You can find the form and instructions to submit on the KDE Striving Readers website.

**Question:** If a district already has a reading program that has an annual fee, can the district use SRCL grant award to pay for this program?
**Answer:** When applying for the grant, districts will choose from a matrix of approved literacy programs/initiatives. Any other materials or supports needed for successful implementation of the local literacy plan will require prior approval by KDE.

**Question:** Will there be any support from KDE to assist with grant proposals?
**Answer:** Yes, six (6) technical assistance sessions will be offered for all interested applicants. Three (3) face-to-face full-day regional sessions are scheduled for early February, and three (3) one-hour online sessions are scheduled throughout February. Please consult KDE's Striving Readers webpage for updated information as it becomes available.

**Question:** How does a district secure commitments from community early care partners such as Headstart or daycare providers?
**Answer:** To apply for the grant, partner commitment letters are required. Prior to application, districts should meet with and discuss partnering with early care providers who feed their elementary schools. The staff of the early care providers must be involved in the development and implementation of the Literacy Leadership Team and local Literacy Plan.

**Question:** Are there any competitive preference priorities?
**Answer:** There are three (3) preference priorities that can earn districts extra points on their proposal: 1. Serving disadvantaged children, 2. Alignment of Birth to grade 5 partnerships, and 3. Serving homeless children.

**Question:** Can educational cooperatives or other education agencies apply for the SRCL grant?
**Answer:** No. Only public school districts meet the eligibility requirement of a feeder system.

**Question:** Who should I contact if I have questions about the SRCL grant?
**Answer:** KDE's SRCL Program Manager is Jackie Rogers (Jackie.Rogers2@education.ky.gov).

**Question:** When will the SRCL grants be awarded? How long will the grant last?
**Answer:** Awardee districts will receive SRCL funds for the 2018-19 and 2019-20 school years.

**Question:** Are there requirements about the age or grade range of children and students served by SRCL funding?
**Answer:** SRCL has a focus on comprehensive literacy and comprehensive in this case is defined as birth through grade 12. All literacy plans submitted must be a comprehensive plan that strives to meet the specific needs of their feeder system from birth to grade 12.

**Question:** How is the amount of district awards determined? Will all awarded districts receive the same amount of funding?
**Answer:** Districts who are awarded a SRCL grant will not all receive the same amount. Districts will be classified into tiers of small, medium, and large. This classification is based on overall enrollment, feeder system size, and other considerations may be made of number of staff served.

**Question:** Is there a research component for the SRCL? What will participating districts be required to do or provide?
**Answer**: Yes, there is a research component. Districts that are awarded a grant will commit to gathering specified data, using specific screeners and assessment, being monitored, and completing surveys. The monitoring and evaluation of the grant will be conducted by outside, independent institutions.

**Question:** Are districts who do not have a high school eligible to apply for the grant?
**Answer:** Districts who do not have a high school, for example, those who serve only K-8 students, are eligible to apply, but they must apply in conjunction with the district that serves their students for high school. This partnership needs to be established between the districts before submission of an application and must follow the same feeder pattern requirements of the grant that other P-12 districts follow. The application will need to clearly include both districts, site-based councils, schools, and community partners in the planning and the budget. Districts considering this approach should consult with the SRCL program director, Jackie Rogers(Jackie.Rogers2@education.ky.gov), before submitting an Intent to Apply form.