



Funding Opportunity Announcement

Alabama Pre-K – 3rd Grade Integrated Approach to Early Learning

Competitive Grant Process: Applications due December 22, 2023



The Alabama Department of Early Childhood Education is accepting applications for the 2024-2025 school year for grants that support the delivery of a coordinated and comprehensive high-quality early childhood continuum.

Background

A high-quality early childhood education provides the foundation for student success in school. Having a seamless learning continuum from Pre-K to 3rd grade will align and integrate a comprehensive educational approach to student learning during the years when children have the greatest growth potential.

Educators will be able to apply their knowledge of child development, subject matter content and pedagogical approaches to align educational experiences along the Pre-K-3rd grade continuum. Further, educators will be able to ensure that children are entering classrooms that promote on-going educational progress by building on what was taught during the previous year. This alignment is particularly critical given the new knowledge teachers possess relating to the developmental sequences of early learning. Knowing this, educators can intentionally integrate the developmental domains into the teaching and learning subject matter for young children.

Research findings from multi-year early education interventions and the combined components of the Pre-K-3rd approach can make a positive contribution to young children's learning by providing the pathways through which more children will achieve success by the end of third grade.

The Alabama Pre-K-3rd Grade Integrated Approach to Early Learning will build upon student success and narrow the achievement gap by expanding access to Alabama's high-quality Pre-K model. The Pre-K-3rd approach will incorporate the most successful parts of K-3rd initiatives in order to establish a strong foundation of early learning experiences that promote student achievement and success. The Alabama Department of Early Childhood Education (ADECE) and the Alabama State Department of Education's (ALSDE) collaborative partnership will develop and implement a strong teaching and learning continuum unique to the needs and expectations of Alabama's children and families.

This document serves as an invitation to submit a grant proposal that encompasses three major components of the Pre-K - 3rd Grade Integrated Approach to Early Learning: leadership, assessment and instructional practice in early childhood education. The Pre-K-3rd continuum surpasses the boundaries of preschool into the first few years of elementary school to produce a seamless learning experience for children from age four through grade three. The basic framework and three focus areas of the continuum are based on:

1. Leadership

- a. Leaders embrace the Pre-K-3rd early learning continuum
- b. Leaders ensure developmentally appropriate practices
- c. Leaders provide personalized, blended learning environments
- d. Leaders use measures to guide growth in student learning
- e. Leaders build professional capacity across the early learning community
- f. Leaders make schools a hub for Pre-K-3rd learning for families and communities

2. Instruction

- a. Align and coordinate standards, instructional practices, assessment, environments and professional development creating an incremental alignment plan for Pre-K-3rd
- b. Use consistent, yet developmentally appropriate, instructional approaches across grades
- c. Require horizontal and vertical team meetings
- d. Use instructional coaches with early childhood learning experiences and credentials
- e. Communicate proactively and involve parents, families and the community

3. **Assessment**

- a. Ongoing, observation, standards based
- b. Include all domains of development and learning: social-emotional, language, physical, cognitive, literacy, mathematics, social studies, science and technology and the arts

Research has shown that the key elements of effective Pre-K-3rd programs include:

- High-quality, voluntary Pre-K for all children
- Full-day kindergarten
- Qualified teachers who have a bachelor's degree and specialized training in the methods in which young children learn
- Opportunities for teachers to share data, participate in joint planning sessions on a regular basis as well as collaborative professional development meetings across grade levels
- Strong leadership committed to providing children with seamless high quality educational experiences
- A high quality, developmentally-appropriate curriculum that aligns state standards from Pre-K through third grade and supports the development of the whole child

Follow this link for more detailed information:

[Leading Learning Communities: A Principal's Guide to Early Learning and the Early Grades](#)

Grant Application

This grant will provide \$20,000 for each awarded classroom. LEAs are encouraged to write for Pre-K to K, Pre-K to 1, Pre-K to 2, or Pre-K to 3, depending on the readiness of the school. The funding for this grant is only guaranteed for one year, with programs continuing the process during the next school year.

The following application recommendations are appropriate in relation to this grant:

- It is highly recommended that programs apply who already have a First Class Pre-K classroom in place in order to provide a seamless transition from First Class Pre-K to kindergarten.
- It is highly recommended that those programs that do not have a kindergarten classroom involved in using Teaching Strategies GOLD Assessment, write for a Pre-K to K continuum.
- It is highly recommended that those programs that already have First Class Pre-K and kindergarten classrooms using Teaching Strategies Gold Assessment, write for a Pre-K to 1st grade continuum.

The applicant must answer the following questions in the Grant software Foundant (please see sample application attached):

- A. **Project Narrative:** How will your grant proposal encompass all three of the focus areas for the Alabama PreK-3rd Grade Integrated Approach to Early Learning: leadership, instruction and assessment?
- B. **Long Term Goals:** Creating a Pre-K-3rd continuum requires a strong commitment by principals and all educators to work together to ensure that all the needs of children are met. What are your long-term goals

for this continuum and how does it fit within your system's goals? Provide a work plan timeline that extends across the school year.

- C. **Budget Narrative:** Provide a budget and a budget narrative that specifically describe how each item will support the achievement of the work plan (sample budget is attached). How will you sustain this project when funding is no longer available?

- Grantees can fill out the application for the P3 Competitive Grant Process by clicking on the link below:

[Alabama Pre-K – 3rd Grade Integrated Approach to Early Learning Competitive Grant Application](#)

Access Code: P324

**Be sure and save this link in a secure place for future use.*

Tentative Grant Timeline:

- **December 22nd** - Application Deadline
- **January** - Awards Announced/MOUs signed
- **February** - Principals must make Application to the NAESP Pre-K – 3 Leadership Academy if they have not already attended
- **TBA** - New Teacher Grantees Required Professional Development
- **TBA** - New Teacher Grantees Required Formative Assessment Professional Development (Leadership from each grantee should attend this training as well)



Funding Opportunity Announcement
**Alabama Pre-K – 3rd Grade Integrated Approach to Early Learning
Competitive Grant Process: Applications due December 22, 2023**



Sample Budget Proposal for Whole Child Instruction 2024-2025

TS GOLD Training, Assessment Entry, and Ongoing Professional Development

- **Trainings & Professional Development**
 - *must pass IRR after training & participate in ongoing PD***\$250.00**
- **3 Full days or 6 half days for data entry/collaboration** **\$350.00**
- **Apple iPad mini & case (do not substitute for another device)** **\$800.00**
- **Travel - Montgomery - miles x .625 (State rate)** **\$300.00**
- **Hotel Expense X 2 Nights at \$150** **\$300.00**

Total Teacher Professional Development Expense **\$2,000**

Classroom Environment **\$8,000**

(Classroom setup for age appropriate furniture, shelves, storage materials, easel, rug, etc.)

Classroom Materials and Supplies **\$10,000**

(Materials and supplies to include, but not limited to consumable supplies, literature, blocks (variety), art supplies, free choice materials, texture materials, additional supplies to foster a blended learning environment, etc.
(See suggested supply list as a priority list)

Total Classroom Environment & Materials Expense **\$18,000**

Total Per Classroom/Teacher Grant Award **\$20,000.00**

Sustainability funds of \$2,000 support teachers attending Early Childhood Conference, PD training and refurbishing consumable items. Sustainability funds are not a guarantee from year to year. It is based on legislative funding.

Classroom Resources for Whole Child Instruction

These are examples and suggestions of the type of items in an environment that support Whole Child Instruction in Early Childhood.

Classroom Setup Resources:

- 2 – Classic Birch Store Anything Large Classroom Shelves
- 1 – Classic Birch Store Anything Lower Classroom Shelf
- 2 – Classic Birch Store Anything Medium Classroom Shelves
- 1 – Builder Block Storage Set
- 1 – Space-saver Dress-Up Storage Center
- 1 – Pretend & Play Combo Kitchen
- 1 – Pretend & Play Table and Chair Set
- 1 – Hardwood Doll Crib
- 1 – Mobile Listening & Storage Center
- 1 – Classic Birch Space-maker Storage Unit for Art Supplies
- 1 – Classic Birch Mobile Book Organizer
- 2 – Navy Blue Rectangular Carpet - 6' x 9'
- Big Beanbag Seat - Red
- Big Beanbag Seat – Blue
- 1 – Space-saver Writing Center for Two
- 1 – Heavy-Duty Adjustable Mobile Computer Station for Two
- 2 – Classic Birch 8 Cubby Storage Units
- 100 Clear-View Storage Boxes
- 1 – Heavy-Duty Hardwood Easel
- 1 – Economy Sand & Water Table with Lid
- 1 – Giant Clear View Sand & Water Table with Lid
- 1 – Classic Birch 12 Cubby Storage Unit
- 1 – 36" x 72" Small Group Table
- 8 – 13 1/2" Classic Chair - Red
- 22 – 13 1/2" Classic Chair - Blue
- 6 – 13 1/2" Classic Chair - Yellow
- 17 1/2" Classic Teacher's Chair - Red
- 1 – Low 42" Small Round Table
- 1 – Large Classroom Carpet for 20 students
- 4 – 24" x 48" Rectangular Table
- 2 – Classic Birch Coats, Cubbies & Communication Center
- 1 – Comfy Pillows – Set of 5

Classroom Materials and Manipulatives:

Starter Set of Hardwood Unit Blocks
Hardwood Community Vehicles - Set of 10
Block Play Traffic Signs
Community People for Block Play
People with Differing Abilities for Block Play
Starter Set Bamboo Building Blocks
Blocks & Blueprints Learning Center
Soft & Squeezy Wild Animals
Classic Dinosaur Collection
Dishwasher-Safe Plastic Basket - Large
Dishwasher-Safe Plastic Basket - Small
Doll Bedding Set
Feels Real Hispanic Baby Doll
Feels Real White Baby Doll
Feels Real Black Baby Doll
Multi-Ethnic Doll – Asian Girl
Multi-Ethnic Doll – Black Girl
Multi-Ethnic Doll – Black Boy
Guide Dog, Harness and Cane
Walker and Accessory Bag
Mexican Falda and Blusa – Dress-Up Costume
Chinese Manchurian Robe – Dress-Up Costume
Ghanaian Dashiki and Kuka – Dress-Up Costume
Doctor Dress-Up Costume
Fireman Dress-Up Costume
Chef Dress-Up Costume
Push-Button Play Phone
Indestructible Play Dishes - Service for 4
Indestructible Pots and Pans Playset
Let's Go Shopping Vegetable Basket
Best-Buy Multicultural Play Food Assortment
Egg Shakers - Set of 12
Rhythm Stick Activity Kit
Activity Scarves
Multicultural Rhythm Stick Fun CD
Musical Scarves Activity CD
Circle Time Activities CD by Georgiana Stewart
Portable CD Player for Music Center and Whole Group Area
Slide & Build Nature Blocks
Buckle, Lace & Tie Dressing Frames
Feed-The-Dog Fine Motor Game

Giant Alphabet Beads
Snap-Together Letter Blocks
Learning Lacers
Bristle Builders - Starter Set
Log Builders - Starter Set
Sequencing Numbers 1-30 Puzzles - Set of 3
Show & Learn Rekenrek Activities
Hands-On Ten-Frames - Set of 4
Hands-On Number Grid
Counting Keys Classroom Set
Sequencing Trains 1-100
Count & Compare Numbers
Size & Color Teddy Counters
Hands-On Sorting Tray
Attribute Blocks
3-D Geometric Shapes Tub
How Much Does It Weigh? Measurement Center
How Long Is It? Measurement Center
Learn to Measure Center
Pop & Add to 12 Game
Math Magic Addition Machine
Earth & Environment Theme Book Library
Community & Careers Theme Book Library
Cultures of the World Theme Book Library
Farms Theme Book Library
Food & Nutrition Theme Book Library
Seasons & Weather Theme Book Library
Growing Things Theme Book Library
Families Theme Book Library
Story Wands
No, David! Storytelling Kit
No, David! by David Shannon
The Rainbow Fish Storytelling Kit
Listening Center Headphones - Each
8-Station Junction Box with Volume Controls
Portable CD Player for Listening Center
Tacky the Penguin Read-Along
Corduroy Read-Along
I Went Walking Read-Along
Phonemic Awareness Folder Game Library – Pre-K-K
Phonological Awareness School Readiness Teaching Kit
Launch & Learn Beginning Sounds Game
Look What I Can Do! Rhyming Center
Alphabet Learning Locks
Alphabet Smart Pencil Interactive Learning Cards

Smart Pencil
Build-A-Word Tiles
Magnetic Tub of Letters
Magnetic Word Family Fridge
Vowel Sounds Sorting Garden
Word Family Dice
Vocabulary Builder Books
Classroom Magnetic Letters Kit
Write & Wipe Alphabet Practice Cards
First 100 Sight-Words Talking Boards
Red Baseline Jumbo Picture Story Newsprint
Draw & Write Journal - Set of 10 (2)
Write & Wipe Lapboard Erasers - Set of 10
Magnetic Letters - Uppercase
Magnetic Letters - Lowercase
Double-Sided Magnetic Write & Wipe Board - Each
Jumbo Pencils
Flip, Feel & Write Alphabet Boards
Newsprint Easel Paper - 18" x 24"
Nylon-Bristle Paintbrushes - 10-Color Set
Fully Washable Liquid Tempera Paint - 10-Color Set - Pints
Heavy-Duty Adjustable Vinyl Paint Apron - Red
Superbright Liquid Tempera Paint - 10-Color Set - Pints
Jumbo Colored Pencils
People Colors Jumbo Pencils
Student Pencil Sharpener - Each
Scissors Center
Construction Paper - 9" x 12" - Assorted Colors
Construction Paper - 12" x 18" - Assorted Colors
Best-Buy Standard Crayons - 8-Color Box
Numbers & Counting Rubbing Plates
Classroom Carry-All
Large Tub of Playdough - Yellow
Large Tub of Playdough - Blue
Large Tub of Playdough - Red
Super-Safe Craft Tape Center - 1/2"
Uppercase Alphabet & Number Dough Stampers
Help-Yourself Glue Tubes
Pom-Poms
Colored Feathers
Colored Craft Sticks
Pipe Stems - 100 Pieces
Hair-Colors Crinkle Strips
Make-A-Face Sheets
Water Play Kit

Sift & Find Alphabet Shells
See It Grow Plant Lab
Early Science File Folder Games - Complete Set
Science Specimens Sorting Center
STEM Science Station - Magnets
Can Do! Color & Light Discovery Kit – Pre-K-Gr. 1
Can Do! Motion Discovery Kit – Pre-K-Gr. 1
Magnifier Center
Watch-It-Grow Window Greenhouse - Set of 20
Five Senses Instant Learning Center
Insects Specimen Center
Sea Life Specimen Center
Let's Get Moving! Activity Mats
Let's Get Moving! Numbers & Counting Kit
Letters Beanbag Set
All-Purpose Teacher's Apron
Moods & Emotions Poster Pack
Families Poster Pack
A View from Around the World - Set 1
Children of the World Book Set Magic Water
Marbles
3 – 1 ½" Ruled Chart Tablets
3 – Unruled Chart Tablets
Daily Attendance and Classroom Helpers Chart