
BUDGET UNIT BRIEF – FY 2019

Fiscal Services Division

November 4, 2018



Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

English Language Literacy Grant

Overview

Senate File 2347 (2014 Iowa Acts, chapter 1135) established an English Language Literacy Grant Program within the Department of Education. The Program provides grants to school districts to pilot and identify the best methods to teach English language literacy throughout Iowa. Priority for the grants is given to the school districts meeting the following criteria:

- High percentage of students identified as limited English proficient.
- Large numbers of students determined to be limited English proficient.
- An exceptional diversity of languages of origin spoken by students determined to be limited English proficient.

Grants from the Department may be awarded to school districts for up to three years. The Department and the school districts receiving a grant must enter into a performance agreement that identifies clear literacy achievement goals for limited English proficient students enrolled in the school districts. The performance agreement must include an accountability system to measure student performance and evaluate program effectiveness to ensure that program goals are met. School districts are able to use the grant money for professional development for staff providing instructional services to limited English proficient students.

Reporting

If a school district is awarded an English Language Literacy Grant, is one of the 25 school districts with the largest number of students identified as limited English proficient, and is receiving educational programming because of the identification, then the school district is required to submit to the Department by November 1 of the following year a report that includes the following information:

- A cost accounting of moneys spent on limited English proficient programming by the school district.
- An identification of all native languages represented by limited English proficient students served by the school district.
- The average number of years in English language learner programming spent by limited English proficient students served by the school district.
- The number of full-time equivalent (FTE) employees directly serving limited English proficient students and the student-to-teacher ratio.

More Information

Iowa Department of Education Programing Information: www.educateiowa.gov/pk-12/learner-supports/english-language-learners

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- A review of the number and percentage of limited English proficient students achieving English language proficiency over the previous five years.
- A list of English language learner programs not developed by the school district that are being utilized by the district for limited English proficient students.

Funding

The English Language Literacy Grant Program began in FY 2015, receiving \$500,000 annually. The Program has not been funded since FY 2017.

Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code section [256.9\(65\)](#)
Iowa Administrative Code [281](#)

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