

STRIVING READERS COMPREHENSIVE LITERACY PROGRAM

Sept 3, 2010

Summary

The FY 2010 Consolidated Appropriations Act (P. L. 111-117) provides **\$250 million** under Section 1502 of ESEA [DEMONSTRATIONS OF INNOVATIVE PRACTICES] for the Striving Readers Comprehensive Literacy (SRCL) program to advance literacy skills for students from birth through grade 12. Under P.L. 111-117, funds for SRCL are allocated accordingly:

- **\$1.25 million** is reserved for a program at Bureau of Indian Education schools;
- **\$1.25 million** is reserved for grants to Outlying Areas;
- **\$10 million** is reserved for formula grants to assist States in creating or maintaining a State Literacy Team and to assist States in developing a comprehensive literacy plan;
- Up to **\$12.5 million** may be reserved for national activities; and
- At least **\$225 million** shall be used to award competitive grants to SEAs of which the SEA:
 - May reserve up to 5% for State leadership activities (including technical assistance and training, data collection, reporting, and administration);
 - Shall subgrant not less than 95% to LEAs (exclusively for K-12 activities) or other nonprofit providers of early childhood education that partner with a public or private nonprofit organization or agency with a demonstrated record of effectiveness in improving the early literacy development of children from birth through kindergarten entry and in providing professional development in early literacy.

SRCL Formula Grants for State Literacy Teams – \$10 million will be awarded to SEAs based on each State's relative share of funds under Part A of Title I of the ESEA for FY 2009 (according to ED, the range of awards will be \$150,000 to \$727,892). **[Note: The formula grant applications will be made available officially by ED in the near future...keep watching this site for timetable when announced]**

- State Literacy Teams will be comprised of literacy experts with expertise in literacy development and education for children from birth to grade 12 and other stakeholders and must include, at a minimum, individuals with expertise in:
 - Literacy development and instruction for children in the following age/grade levels:
 - Birth to school entry
 - Kindergarten through grade 5
 - Grades 6 through 8
 - Grades 9 through 12
 - Managing and implementing an effective literacy program at the school, district, and State levels;

- Evaluation of literacy programs;
- Planning for and implementing a response-to-intervention model that includes utilization of universal screening, multiple tiers of instruction, early intervening services, validated interventions, and student progress monitoring to inform decision-making;
- Screening and performance measurement in the areas of phonological awareness, word recognition, phonics, vocabulary, comprehension, fluency, and writing;
- Validated interventions and instruction for struggling readers, English Learners, and students with disabilities;
- Teacher, coach, and principal professional development; and
- Teacher preparation and state licensure/accreditation in literacy development and instruction.
- **[Note: Other suggested members may include: library/media specialists; parents; literacy coaches; instructors of adult education, representatives of community-based organizations providing educational services to disadvantaged children and families, family literacy service providers, representatives from local or State school boards, representatives from related child services agencies, representatives from related State or federal literacy programs, and other similar persons the SEAs deems necessary].**
- The State Literacy Team must assist the SEA to develop a comprehensive literacy plan. As a condition of this award, that plan must be submitted to ED by February 1, 2011.

SRCL Discretionary Grants – At least \$225 million will be awarded competitively to SEAs that must subgrant at least 95 percent of the funds to LEAs and early childhood providers (according to ED, the range of awards for SEAs will be \$10 million to \$50 million). **[Note: The Department expects that applications for the SRCL competitive grant program will be available in early 2011 and due in spring, 2011].**

- Entities eligible for SRCL discretionary subgrants are LEAs or other nonprofit providers of early childhood education that partner with a public or private nonprofit organization or agency with a demonstrated record of effectiveness in improving the early literacy development of children from birth through kindergarten entry and in providing professional development in early literacy. Grantees will use these funds:
 - For services and activities that have characteristics of effective literacy instruction through professional development, screening and assessment, targeted interventions for students reading below grade level and other research based methods of improving classroom instruction and practice for all students.
- Of the SRCL discretionary grants, subgranted funds to LEAs and other eligible entities:
 - 15% of funds shall be used to serve children from birth through age 5 **[opportunity for public libraries]**;
 - 40% of funds shall be used to serve children in kindergarten through grade 5; and
 - 40% of funds shall be used to serve students in middle and high school including an equitable distribution of funds between middle and high schools.