

Federal Grant Application Request  
**Oregon Department of Education**  
Age 3 to Grade 3 Assessment Grant

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**Analyst:** Doug Wilson

**Request:** Authority to apply for a four-year federal Age 3 to Grade 3 Assessment grant in an amount of up to \$7.0 million.

**Recommendation:** Approve the Request.

**Analysis:** The Oregon Department of Education (ODE) is requesting authority to apply for a \$7.0 million four-year federal grant from the U.S. Department of Education. The agency is applying for the grant to address two issues:

- Creation of a tablet application for the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment to increase its usefulness to both teachers in the early grades and pre-school teachers. The application will make the results of the assessment immediately available and can be used to measure student progress after the assessment. This means preschool teachers can assess the effectiveness of their programs and make changes where necessary. Elementary teachers can gauge a student's progress in addressing findings of the assessment.
- Evaluation and research of existing pre-K and grades 1 to 3 measures and how they align with the State's education goals. Overall, this will assist in creating an aligned set of standards to connect Pre-K activities with those in the K-12 system.

The deadline for submitting the grant application is June 10, 2015. There are no matching requirements for this grant and no additional staff is required. If awarded, the agency would contract out for the development of the application and the research. The agency will partner with the Oregon Education Investment Board and the Behavioral Research and Teaching center at the University of Oregon for this grant.

The Legislative Fiscal Office (LFO) recommends approval of the request to apply for the Age 3 to Grade 3 Assessment grant in an amount of up to \$7.0 million.



# Oregon Department of Education

Kate Brown, Governor

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May 27, 2015

The Honorable Richard Devlin, Co-Chair  
The Honorable Peter Buckley, Co-Chair  
Joint Committee on Ways and Means  
900 Court Street NE  
H-178 State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301-4048

Dear Co-Chairpersons:

## **Nature of the Request**

The Oregon Department of Education (ODE) respectfully requests approval to apply for a 4-year, \$7 million grant from the Institute of Educational Sciences (IES). This grant falls within IES's "Grants for Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems (SLDS) Grant" and is entitled "Age 3 to Grade 3 Assessment Grant." Expected annual funding is approximately \$1.75 million.

## **Agency Action**

This grant will fund two projects: (1) the creation of a tablet application that can administer the Oregon Kindergarten assessment and related assessments and provide real-time feedback to education providers in pre-K and Kindergarten; and (2) the evaluation and research of existing pre-K and grades 1-3 measures with respect to their alignment to the Oregon Kindergarten assessment and Oregon educational goals.

ODE will use the funds in collaboration with the Oregon Education Investment Board and the University of Oregon's Behavioral Research and Teaching to support the development of the application and the evaluation model.

The current Kindergarten assessment is the first time Oregon students take a common measure of their academic and behavioral/social school readiness. It is a critical data element for districts and for the state, and it has already identified systemic gaps. However, the Kindergarten assessment, in its current form, is not useful to teachers and building administrators. The results from the assessment are not immediately available and there is no way to measure student progress post-assessment. In addition, pre-K providers do not have a way to check the progress of their students towards the Kindergarten assessment. The application developed in this grant will make the Kindergarten assessment available in a form where teachers and students would get immediate results, where progress could be measured during the early elementary years, and where pre-K providers could better prepare their students. This application will The

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support the existing ODE and Early Learning Division efforts to create an aligned set of standards that connect Pre-K to K-12.

Oregon Pre-K programs currently have assessment systems. A key unanswered question is whether these assessments are predictive of success in elementary school. This grant

will fund the evaluation of existing assessments, including the Kindergarten assessment, with respect to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade reading and math performance.

There are no matching requirements for this grant. No additional staff will be hired to administer or implement this grant. Most costs are contractual and allocated to program development, implementation, and research and evaluation. Program development will include creating computer applications and creating and loading assessment items. The implementation will include the creation of print and web-based training materials. The evaluation will include data collection and analysis with an Institutional Research Board approved research design.

The detail for the grant application was released on March 12, 2015. Applications are due June 10, 2015. ODE will provide the completed application to the Legislative Fiscal Office as soon as possible.

**Action Requested**

ODE respectfully requests approval to apply for a 4-year, \$7million for the Age 3 to Grade 3 Assessment grant from the IES.

**Legislation Affected**

None.

Sincerely,



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Cc:

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