

## ANALYSIS

### Item 10: Department of Early Learning and Care Birth Through Five Literacy Plan

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**Analyst:** Julie Neburka

**Request:** Acknowledge receipt of a report on the implementation plan for the Birth Through Five Literacy program, increase Other Funds expenditure limitation by \$9,432,406 for implementation of the plan, and approve a transfer by the Department of Education of \$9,432,406 from the Early Learning Account in the Fund for Student Success to the Birth Through Five Literacy Fund in the Department of Early Learning and Care.

**Analysis:** HB 3198 (2023) established the Early Literacy Success Initiative to increase early literacy in children from birth through third grade, to reduce early literacy academic disparities, to support parents and caregivers as they develop their children’s early literacy skills, and to increase access to early literacy supports that are research-aligned. The bill established three new grant programs to fund the initiative: Early Literacy Success School Grants, a Birth Through Five Literacy Plan, and an Early Literacy Success Community Grant program. For the latter two programs, new statutory funds were established but not capitalized, and direction was provided through budget notes to the Department of Education (ODE) and Department of Early Learning and Care (DELIC) to return to the Legislature with plans for the new programs by December 30, 2023, and to request funding to implement the plans after receiving legislative approval. The two agencies responded to this direction in a joint report submitted by the Department of Education. This analysis addresses only the Birth Through Five portion of the joint report.<sup>1</sup>

A budget note in the budget report for HB 3198 provides the following direction to DELIC:

**Budget Note:**

“The Department of Early Learning and Care is directed to develop a Birth Through Five Literacy Plan to expand culturally specific early literacy programs for children from birth to age five, to provide training and coaching for direct service staff in early literacy, and to develop and expand language revitalization efforts by federally recognized Indian tribes in Oregon. In order to develop its plan, the Department shall:

- Inventory those programs administered by the Department that have early literacy outcomes, goals, or activities;
- Define the population demographics, early childhood educator demographics, and regions served by those programs;
- Identify existing gaps in the provision of early literacy programs and supports;
- Recommend expenditures from the Birth Through Five Literacy Fund to remedy gaps in current early literacy; programming, provide training and coaching for providers, and develop and expand language revitalization efforts by federally recognized Indian tribes in Oregon.

The Department shall report to the Legislature on its plan and funding recommendations no later than December 30, 2023.”

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<sup>1</sup> For analysis of the Early Literacy Success Community and Tribal Grant program request, please see January 2024 Joint Interim Committee on Ways and Means Item #9.

The Department's report contains a plan to distribute funds from the Birth Through Five Literacy Fund to current and newly eligible grantees in two of its existing programs: the Kindergarten Readiness Partnership and Innovation (KPI) program, managed through the statewide network of Early Learning Hubs; and the Early Childhood Equity Fund (ECEF) program. While most of the Department's programs and services support the early literacy goals established in HB 3198, these programs particularly address parent and caregiver support and early literacy disparities and/or inequities. The KPI program increases children's readiness for kindergarten by providing shared professional development opportunities for early learning providers and kindergarten teachers. The ECEF funds culturally specific kindergarten readiness and family support programs in order to close those opportunity gaps caused by such things as race, family income, or language.

In addition to spending \$75,000 on community outreach and communications materials for stakeholder engagement, the Department plans to allocate \$4.7 million from the Birth Through Five Literacy Fund to KPI programs to pay for professional development and training for early childhood educators to promote literacy skills in young children, to implement developmentally appropriate literacy curricula for use by KPI grantees, and to increase access to books. The report does not identify the number of potential grantees or the estimated amount of each grant award. Metrics proposed to be collected include the number of families participating in family engagement events/activities, the number of families receiving early literacy resources and materials, the number of educators participating in early literacy development trainings, and the number of trainings offered and resources/materials distributed. Grant funds are anticipated to be awarded by June 2024.

An additional \$4.7 million is proposed to be allocated from the Birth Through Five Literacy Fund to current and newly eligible ECEF grantees for early literacy resources and materials, for culturally specific early literacy training and professional development, and for community development activities to identify gaps in early literacy activities that might be addressed with future rounds of grant funding. The report states that there are 25 current ECEF grantees and does not identify the estimated amount of each grant award. Metrics proposed to be collected include the number of families participating in family engagement events/activities and the number of early literacy family engagement activities held, the number of educators participating in early literacy development trainings, and the number of trainings offered and culturally relevant resources/materials distributed. Grant funds are anticipated to be awarded by June 2024.

The Legislative Fiscal Office notes that the agency's plan is substantially similar to the plan that was proposed during the development of HB 3198 during the 2023 legislative session. Given the fact that the KPI and ECEF programs currently support early literacy efforts and the goals established in HB 3198, using the existing network of grantees is an expedient means of distributing resources from the Birth Through Five Literacy Fund to leverage current early literacy provider training and family engagement activities. The agency's plan does not contain some of the information required by the budget note - population demographics, early childhood educator demographics, and regions served by those programs that have early literacy outcomes, goals, or activities - that would facilitate analysis of how funding from the Birth Through Five Literacy Fund will be used to fill gaps in the current provision of early literacy programs and supports, and it may be difficult to determine outcomes from the proposed new funding as it will support and expand current programming. The agency's report notes activities it will undertake to further refine the plan prior to its first statutorily required progress report, due on December 31, 2024.

The agency reports that it intends the \$9.4 million set aside for the Birth Through Five Literacy Plan to be allocated for expenditure in the second year of the 2023-25 biennium. The Legislative Fiscal Office notes that the \$9.4 million reserved in the Early Learning Account for the Birth Through Five Literacy Fund will capitalize the fund, and further notes that neither the bill nor the budget report make any representations about whether the 2023-25 funding is intended to be used for one or both years in the biennium. Allocating the entire amount in fiscal year 2024-25 may put funding pressure on these programs in the 2025-27 biennium if the Birth Through Five Literacy Fund is not re-capitalized in a greater amount.

**Recommendation:** The Legislative Fiscal Office recommends that the Joint Interim Committee on Ways and Means recommend acknowledging receipt of the report and recommend approving the plan and increasing Other Funds expenditure limitation by \$9,432,407 for the Department of Early Learning and Care for implementation of the Birth Through Five Literacy Plan; and increasing Other Funds expenditure limitation by \$9,432,407 for the Department of Education for transfer from the Early Learning Account in the Fund for Student Success to the Birth Through Five Literacy Fund, in a budget reconciliation bill during the 2024 legislative session.

**Request:** Report on the Birth through Five Literacy Plan and increase Other Funds expenditure limitation by \$9,432,406 to fund Birth through Five Literacy Plan grants.

**Recommendation:** Acknowledge receipt of the report and approve the request during the 2024 Legislative Session.

**Discussion:** As part of the Early Learning Success Initiative, House Bill 3198 (2023) established three separate grant programs including the Early Literacy Success School Grant program, Birth Through Five Literacy Plan grant program, and Early Literacy Success Community Grants. The measure also establishes two new funds in the State Treasury, including the Early Literacy Success Community Grant Fund, which is continuously appropriated to Oregon Department of Education (ODE), and the Birth Through Five Literacy Fund, which is continuously appropriated to the Department of Early Learning and Care (DELIC). The grant programs and funds are all supported by the Fund for Student Success. The following Budget Note was included in the Budget Report for House Bill 3198.

**Budget Note:**

*The Department of Early Learning and Care is directed to develop a Birth Through Five Literacy Plan to expand culturally specific early literacy programs for children from birth to age five, to provide training and coaching for direct service staff in early literacy, and to develop and expand language revitalization efforts by federally recognized Indian tribes in Oregon. In order to develop its plan, the Department shall:*

- Inventory those programs administered by the Department that have early literacy outcomes, goals, or activities;*
- Define the population demographics, early childhood educator demographics, and regions served by those programs;*
- Identify existing gaps in the provision of early literacy programs and supports;*
- Recommend expenditures from the Birth Through Five Literacy Fund to remedy gaps in current early literacy; programming, provide training and coaching for providers, and develop and expand language revitalization efforts by federally recognized Indian tribes in Oregon.*

*The Department shall report to the Legislature on its plan and funding recommendations no later than December 30, 2023.*

DELIC continues to perform the work outlined in the Budget Note and House Bill 3198. Sections 9 and 10 of House Bill 3198 contain provisions on the Birth Through Five Literacy Plan. And though no required date for the initial plan is written into the law, an annual progress report on the Birth Through Five Literacy Plan is required, per Section 10, each December, with the first report required no later than December 31, 2024. The Department intends to use 2024 to develop the full 2024 Birth Through Five Literacy

Plan and meet the progress report deadline with release of a more detailed Birth Through Five Literacy Plan. The deadline for all the requirements in the Budget Note was not feasible, given the need to involve community, hire staff, and put forward a more comprehensive plan, particularly given other demands to standing up the new agency at the start of the current biennium. The Department received funding for two positions to support the Birth Through Five Literacy Plan efforts and is in the process of filling those positions. With the additional staffing support and planned collaborations with a contractor, the Department intends to engage more thoroughly with community to develop a more robust, detailed Birth Through Five Literacy Plan in calendar year 2024, which not only fully addresses the requirements of the Budget Note but delivers a shared vision with ODE's early literacy framework. The Department also plans to update Early Learning and Kindergarten Guidelines later this year. Over time, the progress reports will be able to establish linkages to outcomes and indicators of early literacy success.

At this time, the Department submitted a Birth Through Five Literacy Plan that contains an inventory of existing programs, along with the populations served, overall accessibility, recommendations to address literacy gaps and current literacy strategies. Through this initial analysis, the Department proposes to leverage two existing program structures, as they already have touch points to early literacy and align with the proposed investments in House Bill 3198. These two programs are the Kindergarten Readiness Partnership and Innovation (KPI) program and Early Childhood Equity Fund (ECEF) program. Both programs have established infrastructure and grant allocation practices to allow for distribution of additional funds to programs already targeting early literacy. Currently, KPI and ECEF programs serve an estimated 38,000 children throughout the state, although needs exceed available funding.

With a \$26.6 million budget for the 2023-25 biennium, ECEF provides grant funding to culturally specific community organizations to support: parent-child interactions, parenting education, early literacy and family literacy, and native language preservation. The ECEF grants are anticipated to range from \$137,000 to \$2.3 million across 25 grantees in the 2023-25 biennium. DELC proposes to create a new Birth Through Five Literacy Program that utilizes ECEF eligibility criteria, making funds available to both current ECEF providers as well as non-ECEF grantees that meet the same eligibility criteria. The Birth Through Five Literacy Fund results in an increased need of \$4.7 million Other Funds expenditure limitation for the new program in the second year of the biennium. The Birth Through Five Literacy Program will build on current ECEF services by enhancing parenting education and parent-child interaction, developing culturally relevant early literacy training and professional development, and support continued engagement activities to identify community-specific gaps.

The KPI Program is designed to establish scalable and replicable models for P-3 alignment at the local level, with a focus on shared development for early learning providers and K-3 educators supporting successful transitions into kindergarten for all children, as well as engaging families as equal partners in children's learning and development. All 16 regional Early Learning Hubs administer and deliver the KPI program, funding a variety of activities ranging from parent engagement, kindergarten transition, and professional development for early learning and early grade educators.

The 2023-25 budget for KPI is \$9.5 million, and the Department proposes to utilize resources from the Birth Through Five Literacy Fund to increase the KPI budget to \$14.2 million, an increase of \$4.7 million in the second year of the biennium.

While DELC continues to work on a more detailed Birth Through Five Literacy Plan, the Department has identified existing programs that align with the Early Literacy Success Initiative and proposed a solution to leverage existing efforts, building upon work already happening across communities. The Birth Through Five Literacy Program would be a permanent, ongoing program and the Department will return with recommended investments with the 2024 Birth Through Five Literacy Plan. Therefore, the investments proposed at this time would be one-time for 2023-25 and the Department would return with a permanent funding request.

**Legal References:**

- Increase the Other Funds expenditure limitation established by Chapter 534, Section 22, Oregon Laws 2023, for the Department of Early Learning and Care Birth through Five Literacy Plan grants, by \$9,432,406 for the 2023-25 biennium.
- Increase the Other Funds expenditure limitation established by Chapter 449, Section 12, Oregon Laws 2023, for the Oregon Department of Education transfer of corporate activities tax funds from the Early Learning Account to the Department of Early Learning and Care, by \$9,432,406 for the 2023-25 biennium.



# Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor



Oregon Department of  
**Early Learning  
and Care**

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December 8, 2023

Senator Elizabeth Steiner, Co-Chair  
Representative Tawna Sanchez, Co-Chair  
Interim Joint Committee on Ways and Means  
900 Court Street NE  
H-178 State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chairs:

### **Nature of the Request**

The Department of Early Learning and Care (DELIC) requests acknowledgement of receipt of the Birth through Five Literacy report, and a transfer be made from the Oregon Department of Education's Early Learning Account to the Birth through Five Literacy Fund in the amount of \$9,432,406, along with an equivalent increase to Other Funds expenditure limitation to expend funds for the Birth through Five Literacy program.

### **Agency Action**

The Birth through Five Literacy Plan is intended to expand culturally specific early literacy programs for children from birth through five years of age with a focus on family and caregiver engagement; professional training and coaching for direct service staff in early literacy; and expanding and developing language revitalization efforts by the nine federally recognized tribes within Oregon's borders.

A key strength of the Birth Through Five Literacy Plan is to engage community to inform the recommended investments in early literacy. While HB 3198 does not require a full plan until December 2024, DELIC has utilized previous community engagement activities, input and feedback to identify two existing program structures that can be leveraged for these investments. The feedback determined that a key strategy for meeting the needs of Oregon families is to provide culturally relevant, flexible, and responsive services that are integrated across systems.

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*The Mission of the Department of Early Learning and Care fosters coordinated, culturally appropriate, and family-centered services that recognize and respect the strengths and needs of all children, families, and early learning and care professionals. Our Vision is that all children, families, early care and education professionals, and communities are supported and empowered to thrive.*



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DEL C administers several early learning and professional development programs that affect early literacy. While DEL C continues in a more robust engagement process with community through 2024, the agency proposes to leverage the Kindergarten Partnership and Innovation (KPI) program and Early Childhood Equity (ECE F) program to allocate the Early Literacy Fund resources to enhance services of these programs or expand their offering to more children and families across Oregon. These programs, by design, support culturally specific organizations to serve children and families within specific communities. Both programs have established infrastructure and grant allocation practices to allow for seamless distribution of newly added Early Literacy Funds. The additional Early Literacy funds would allow grantees to deliver more early literacy services to children and families from current levels.

### Kindergarten Readiness Partnership & Innovation (KPI)

The KPI Program is designed to establish scalable and replicable models for P-3 alignment at the local level, with a focus on shared development for early learning providers and K-3 educators supporting successful transitions into kindergarten for all children, and engaging families as equal partners in children's learning and development. All 16 regional Early Learning Hubs administer the KPI Program, funding a variety of activities ranging from parent engagement, kindergarten transition, and professional development for early learning and early grade educators.

These activities target priority populations that are identified in biennial Hub Sector Plan, which are developed in the local regional through engagement with families and community partners, including school districts. Half of the Birth Through Five Literacy resources – \$4,716,203 – would be made available to all Early Learning Hubs via the existing funding formula to expand the KPI activities that support early literacy development. Additional services would begin in summer and fall of the 2024 program year, depending on the region and activities offered by the Hub.

### Early Childhood Equity

The Early Childhood Equity Fund (ECE F) program was created as part of the 2019 Student Success Act to support a broad range of culturally specific early learning, early childhood, and parent support programs, including: parenting education, parent-child interaction, kindergarten transition (including child and family literacy supports), and tribal language

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preservation and revitalization. To be eligible to apply for a grant, a program must be a culturally specific organization or operate a culturally specific early learning program. This program was established to help close opportunity gaps for children and families who experience systemic disparities because of any combination of factors, such as race, income, zip code, or language by funding early learning services rooted in culture, home language, and lived experience.

Half of the Birth Through Five Literacy resources – \$4,716,203 – would be made available to new and existing ECEF grantees. There are currently 25 grantees – three of which are Tribes – across 18 counties in Oregon. This expansion of the program could lead to 1,500-2,000 additional children and families served across new or existing grantees.

### **Action Requested**

Transfer \$9,432,406 from the Oregon Department of Education's Early Learning Account. Increase Other Funds expenditure limitation by \$9,432,406 to enable DELC to make grants from the Birth through Five Literacy Fund. Acknowledge receipt of the Birth through Five Literacy report.

### **Legislation Affected**

Increase the Other Funds expenditure limitation established by chapter 534, section 22, Oregon Laws 2023, for the Department of Early Learning and Care, by \$9,432,406 for the 2023-25 biennium.

Sincerely,

Alyssa Chatterjee

Early Learning System Director

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*The Mission of the Department of Early Learning and Care fosters coordinated, culturally appropriate, and family-centered services that recognize and respect the strengths and needs of all children, families, and early learning and care professionals. **Our Vision** is that all children, families, early care and education professionals, and communities are supported and empowered to thrive.*

# **Early Literacy Success Initiative: Birth Through Five Literacy Tribal & Community Grants**

HB 3198 Report to the Legislature:  
December 29, 2023



Oregon Department of  
**Early Learning  
and Care**



OREGON  
**DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION**

*Oregon achieves . . . together!*

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# Executive Summary

Governor Tina Kotek set a vision for early literacy to ensure every child has access to consistent, culturally responsive, and research-aligned<sup>1</sup> literacy instruction in all of Oregon’s public elementary schools.

1. Teachers should be empowered with the resources and support to teach reading and writing.
2. School administrators should have support to create school-wide systems that ensure every student in every classroom and every elementary instructor has what they need to be successful.
3. Parents are children’s first teachers and should be empowered to be full partners in their children’s literacy development. We must collectively prioritize and work together to create the conditions to empower parents.

**HB 3198 (2023) was passed with bipartisan support as a recognition that Oregon’s literacy outcomes won’t change without meaningful and sustained investments that create the conditions for students to learn to read, read to learn, and close long-standing disparities in access and opportunities.** The purpose of the Early Literacy Success Initiative is to:

- Increase early literacy for children from birth through 3rd grade;
- Reduce early literacy academic disparities for student groups that have historically experienced academic disparities;
- Increase support to parents and guardians to enable them to be full partners in the development of their children’s literacy skill and knowledge development; and
- Increase access to early literacy support that is research-aligned, culturally responsive, student-centered, and family-centered.

In service of that purpose, the legislation established a Community Grant program administered by the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) and a Birth through Five Plan and Fund administered by the Department of Early Learning and Care (DELC), each with a \$1 expenditure limitation. A third component of the legislation included a School Grant administered by ODE funded at \$94 million for the 2023-25 biennium. The School Grant funds were appropriated by the legislature; however, the \$20 million portion of resources to strengthen and expand community-based services, supports for parents as their children’s first teachers, and to sovereign tribal nations to support and sustain indigenous language development and early literacy were held back pending a plan provided to the legislature in December 2023. **This plan provides that information with a request to the legislature to release the funds.**

## **Birth Through Five Literacy Plan & Fund**

Per House Bill 3198 (2023) budget note, “The Department of Early Learning and Care is directed to develop a Birth Through Five Literacy Plan to expand culturally specific early literacy programs for children from birth to age five, to provide training and coaching for direct service staff in

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<sup>1</sup> Research-aligned is defined in [HB 3198 \(2023\)](#) as literacy-focused, culturally responsive, and relevant to diverse learners; based on long-term research derived from the science of reading and writing; and applies instructional practices that are developmentally appropriate and designed for students with disabilities and students who are English Language Learners.

early literacy, and to develop and expand language revitalization efforts by federally recognized Indian tribes in Oregon.”

This plan articulates DELC programs that already support parents and young children in early literacy and gaps that families have identified. To begin addressing these gaps, DELC recommends utilizing \$4.7 million of the Birth Through Five Literacy Fund to enhance early literacy activities offered by the Kindergarten Readiness Partnership and Innovation (KPI) program administered by the regional Early Learning Hubs across the state. DELC proposes utilizing the remaining funds for the Birth Through Five Literacy Program, establishing a program budget of \$4.7 million in the second year of the biennium and leveraging the eligibility requirements of the Early Childhood Equity Fund.

In July 2023, DELC began engagement with existing partners and sovereign tribal nations to guide the effort going forward. DELC will require a \$9.4 million limitation increase to create and implement the Birth Through Five Literacy Plan, subject to approval of the plan. Upon approval of the \$9.4 million limitation increase, DELC will conduct more robust planning and coordination of services for the 2024 Birth Through Five Literacy Plan.

### **Community Grant**

**The Early Literacy Community Success Grant (\$10 million)** program, administered by the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) is intended to strengthen and expand community-based services, supports for parents as their children’s first teachers, and sovereign tribal nations to support and sustain indigenous language development.

The Early Literacy Community Success Grant Fund currently has a \$1 statutory appropriation. ODE will require a \$10 million limitation increase to implement the grant program, which is subject to plan approval. The Grant program is separated into two components:

*The Early Literacy Tribal Grants (\$2 million)* is a noncompetitive set-aside for distribution to each of the nine tribes to support early literacy and language revitalization. In recognizing tribal sovereignty, each Tribe will develop a Project Plan. Outcomes and indicators for those plans will adhere to HB 3198 and build from the [AI/AN Student Success Plan](#). Subject to release of funds, ODE will distribute grant agreements in April 2024. ODE will develop Indigenous guidance and frameworks to support Tribes and monitor the respective grant-funded Project Plans.

*The Early Literacy Community Grant program (\$8 million)* is to support families with early literacy outside of the school setting. ODE will implement the Community Grant plan in two phases.

Phase 1 (August 2023 to March 2024). ODE is leveraging existing ESSER and HB3198/SEIA administrative funds to conduct statewide community engagement and develop the Oregon Early Literacy Framework and Toolkit that will address how community organizations and the parents/caregivers they work with can support children outside of school hours.

Phase 2 (March 2023 to June 2025): Upon approval of the \$10 million limitation increase, ODE will conduct a statewide Request for Application process to implement the framework and toolkit.

The Community Grant outcomes and corresponding indicators will focus on capacity building of CBOs, indigenous communities, ESDs, and other qualifying organizations to engage families in early literacy.

# Introduction

## **The Importance of Investing in Literacy Early**

Brain science tells us that babies develop emergent literacy skills from birth, prompting a need to start supporting parents and caregivers and their children well before children begin the K-12 education journey. To build this readiness for school and to ensure schools are ready for students, parents and families must be recognized and supported as the first, most important teachers in a child's life. Before a child learns to read and write, they learn to listen and speak in their home language. This aspect of parent engagement was a consistent theme in community engagement conducted by the Governor's Office to inform the development of HB 3198 and is a theme strongly supported on a bipartisan basis.

"Infants' and toddlers' primary learning environment is their home, and their first and most consistent educators are the family members with whom they live. The home language and literacy environment have a strong and lasting effect on language skills, emergent literacy, and related social and academic skills."

Source:

[Essential Instructional Practices in Language and Emergent Literacy](#)

## **Early Literacy Success Initiative**

Oregon's Early Literacy Success Initiative provides Oregon the opportunity to improve, connect, and fortify systems and structures to ensure every child in Oregon receives evidence-based early literacy development that honors the unique and intersectional assets their families bring. Through the approval of this plan, DELC and ODE will establish, grow, and deepen the integral connections between early learning sector and the K-12 sector and between the State, tribal nations, schools, and communities to support early literacy development and ensure every early elementary scholar in Oregon has the skills, tools, and opportunity to realize their fullest academic potential.

This plan is developed in line with guiding principles that anchor [Oregon's Early Literacy Framework](#), including the two noted below. The Framework and the principles therein were informed by months of inclusive engagement through 21 focus groups and 152 participants representing educators, administrators, literacy experts, community-based organizations, and sovereign tribal governments.

**Literacy begins at birth:** The first sounds a child may hear or see (signed) are the voices of the people in their home environment, building neural pathways and serving as the initial source of knowledge about language and their world. Families and caregivers are essential first partners in oral language development that cultivates later success in literacy and life.

**Families and communities strengthen school-based learning:** Outside of school, children spend most of their lives at home or in the community. Parents and caregivers have a role to play in reinforcing the learning that happens at school as much as possible at home, and they must be supported as full partners in their children's literacy development. Children's literacy learning is deepened through their lived experiences, where their unique languages, cultures, and identities are affirmed by families and caregivers who serve as important first teachers.

# Birth Through Five Literacy Plan & Fund



## **Budget Note:**

“The Department of Early Learning and Care is directed to develop a Birth Through Five Literacy Plan to expand culturally specific early literacy programs for children from birth to age five, to provide training and coaching for direct service staff in early literacy, and to develop and expand language revitalization efforts by federally recognized Indian tribes in Oregon. To develop its plan, the Department shall:

1. Inventory those programs administered by the Department that have early literacy outcomes, goals, or activities;
2. Define the population demographics, early childhood educator demographics, and regions served by those programs;
3. Identify existing gaps in the provision of early literacy programs and supports;
4. Recommend expenditures from the Birth Through Five Literacy Fund to remedy gaps in current early literacy; programming, provide training and coaching for providers, and develop and expand language revitalization efforts by federally recognized Indian tribes in Oregon.

The Department shall report to the Legislature on its plan and funding recommendations no later than December 30, 2023. After approval of the Birth Through Five Literacy Plan, the Legislature may provide Other Funds expenditure limitation from the Early Learning Account of up to \$9,432,407 for grants from the Birth Through Five Literacy Fund.”

Source: [HB 3198 Budget Note](#), p. 4-5.

It is important to note that the budget note deadline conflicts with the legislation. HB 3198, section 10 states, “Notwithstanding section 9 (4) of this 2023 Act, the first report required to be submitted by the Department of Early Learning and Care under section 9 (4) of this 2023 Act must be submitted no later than December 31, 2024.” The enrolled legislation timeline therefore gives DELC until December 2024 to develop the contents of the Birth through Five Plan, outlined in items 1-4 listed above. We interpret the budget note to request how DELC would access the \$9.4 million for the second year of the current biennium while the 2024 Birth Through Five Literacy Plan is developed. The 2024 Plan will include demographic data, additional gaps in current early literacy programming, and any additional recommendations for future funding.

## **Birth Through Five Literacy Plan**

The purpose of this plan is to articulate the ways that many of the Department of Early Learning and Care (DELC) programs already provide support to parents and young children related to comprehensive, holistic early literacy supports, as well as the gaps in services and recommended investments to address identified gaps. The Department, which officially launched on July 1, 2023, leveraged previous community engagement activities to begin to identify these gaps. DELC received two Early Literacy Specialists, which will design, lead, analyze, and implement the engagement and subsequent recommendations for more robust early literacy investments in early learning. The agency will convene

partners in a deeper engagement process beginning in January 2024, utilizing these positions, and likely contracting with a facilitator to collaborate more closely with the Oregon Department of Education to leverage shared engagement opportunities. These engagements will not only inform the 2024 plan, but the revised Early Learning and Kindergarten Guidelines, which will be expanded to include infant-toddler care and developmentally appropriate early literacy guidance.

To further refine the Birth Through Five Literacy Plan in 2024, the Department will first evaluate documentation from prior engagements to elevate themes from program and partner needs with specific connections to early literacy development. Themes will be collected and shared for additional feedback with partners across early learning programs to ensure a full understanding of the gaps in current programming as experienced across Oregon regions. This Plan articulates the preliminary gaps that will be further defined to refine recommendations as DELC endeavors to build a consistent funding stream and foster coordination of services across communities and programs to support parents as their child’s first teacher around early literacy.

**Inventory of Programs with Early Literacy Outcomes**

DELC programs promote early literacy development through culturally specific child and caregiver programming and professional learning for the early educator workforce. These programs leverage several strategies promote early literacy.

1. Parenting Education: Parent education workshops, classes and community events all focus on recognizing parents as each child’s first teacher, providing them with tools, resources and supports to meet their child’s needs.
2. Home Visiting: Standalone and complementary home visiting services continue to promote parents as their child’s first teachers, with a focus on the mental, behavioral and physical health needs of parents and young children prenatally through age three.
3. Community Need: It is important to center community voice in understanding what works in different communities. This means being responsive to community need by resourcing innovative programming that meets the needs of diverse communities and align with the goals and outcomes of DELC across professional development, parenting education, kindergarten transition programs, and more.
4. Tribal Language Preservation: DELC has a government-to-government commitment to support the nine federally recognized tribes within Oregon’s borders to revitalize and preserve Tribal language and culturally sustaining care.
5. Developmentally Appropriate Practice: The Oregon Department of Education and then-Early Learning Division released the Early Learning and Kindergarten Guidelines in 2016. This comprehensive document includes developmentally appropriate practices for preschool and kindergarten and is a tool for ongoing professional development of the shared workforce.

The table below demonstrates the different strategies each program leverages to promote literacy across the state, as well as the target population for services.

Program	Population	Access	Strategy
<a href="#"><u>Baby Promise</u></a>	Infants and toddlers (0-2) in low-income families (200% FPL)	Coos, Curry, Crook, Deschutes, Jefferson, Multnomah; Reedsport	• Early Literacy Instruction



Program	Population	Access	Strategy
<a href="#">Early Childhood Equity</a>	Children and families who face historical and current inequities due to factors such as race, income, zip code, or language.	18 counties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Need</li> <li>• Parenting Education</li> <li>• Tribal Language Preservation</li> </ul>
<a href="#">Healthy Families Oregon</a>	Families whose children may be at higher risk for adverse childhood outcomes (using a standardized, research-based screening tool)	Statewide <i>*Lincoln &amp; Clackamas counties under RFP</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Home Visiting</li> </ul>
<a href="#">Kindergarten Readiness Partnership &amp; Innovation</a>	Early learning, kindergarten, early grade educators; linguistically and culturally diverse families, families with children with special needs, and lower income families	Statewide (via Early Learning Hubs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Need</li> </ul>
<a href="#">Oregon Parenting Education Collaborative</a>	Families with young children, particularly those furthest from opportunity	Statewide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parenting Education</li> </ul>
<a href="#">Oregon Prenatal to Kindergarten</a>	Pregnant parents, infants, toddlers, preschoolers in low-income families (100% FPL)	Statewide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early Literacy Instruction</li> <li>• Home Visiting</li> </ul>
<a href="#">Preschool Promise</a>	Preschoolers (3-5) in low-income families (200% FPL)	Statewide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early Literacy Instruction</li> </ul>
<a href="#">Relief Nurseries</a>	Families experiencing multiple stressors in areas such as mental and physical health, financial, and violence	20 counties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Home Visiting</li> <li>• Parenting Education</li> </ul>
<a href="#">ODE-ELD Early Learning and Kindergarten Guidelines</a>	Preschool through 3 <sup>rd</sup> grade	Statewide: school districts, preschool educators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developmentally Appropriate Practice</li> </ul>

### **Gaps in Early Literacy Services**

DELIC has convened a various types of community engagement over the last several years, both in preparation for the launch of the agency and as part of the federal [Preschool Development Grant—Birth Through Five](#). While there are many programs in DELIC that promote early literacy, there are several gaps in early literacy that have been identified through these previous community conversations.

- Quality of Care: Parents are concerned about the quality of the early learning programs their children are in, most of which are privately funded.
- Quality of Education: Parents are concerned about what their children are learning while in care, or whether there is a strong early literacy component to the early childhood education they are receiving.

The feedback identified a key strategy for meeting the needs of Oregon families is to provide culturally relevant, flexible, and responsive services that are integrated across systems. One specific comment highlighted the importance of meeting families where they are, *“Young children in Oregon thrive through robust, equitable support for an empowered community of families, early educators, and care professionals. (Bring families into the community - don't just try to ‘help’ them.)”*.

While all programs funded by DELC have quality components, many programs operate without funding from DELC. These programs interact with DELC through licensure or other means of monitoring for health and safety, but there are not additional quality requirements to adhere to. DELC has begun to address some of the feedback shared by community through the rulemaking process for childcare licensing rules in the absence of programmatic policy levers.

## Birth Through Five Literacy Fund Recommendations | \$9.4 million

In addition to direct service investments outlined below, DELC plans to leverage \$75,000 in personal services funds from the Birth Through Five Literacy Fund to update the Early Learning and Kindergarten Guidelines to extend to infants and toddlers and include developmentally appropriate early literacy practices for early educators to utilize in their classrooms. This work will be informed by the continued engagement for the 2024 Birth Through Five Literacy plan.

### **Recommended Expenditures to Address Gaps in Early Literacy**

Based on the feedback shared by community so far, DELC recommends leveraging two existing program structures which already have touch points to early literacy in accordance with the purpose in HB 3198. These two structures are the Kindergarten Readiness Partnership and Innovation (KPI) program and Early Childhood Equity Fund (ECEP) program. These program structures are dedicated to parent support at the time when children’s brains are most rapidly developing and reducing opportunity gaps in literacy.

By design, KPI and ECEP support Early Learning Hubs and community organizations, including culturally specific organizations, to serve children and families. In addition, KPI funds are distributed through Early Learning Hubs, which play a critical role coordinating early childhood services in all regions of the state. There are 16 Early Learning Hubs and more background on Hubs is available [here](#). Current KPI and ECEP programs and services have served a cumulative 38,000 children and provide early literacy supports in the forms of parent education, parent-child interaction, kindergarten transition programming, and professional development. By leveraging two existing structures for community programs that already can be easily targeted to further promote early literacy development, communities will more readily have access to, and benefit from, these resources during the second half of the 23-25 biennium.

The \$4.7 million for KPI begins to address gaps in the quality of education in early learning programs by funding targeted, vertically aligned professional development focused on literacy and literacy supports, including training and implementation of developmentally appropriate literacy curriculum.

In addition, these investments will allow the KPI program to offer complementary supports to allow families to provide quality care in their home. Funding could be used in a few different ways, depending on each Early Learning Hub’s community need. This could include:

- Establishment or expansion of parent engagement activities, including book distribution in multiple languages focused on early literacy development;
- Establishment or expansion of Little Free Libraries in communities that have been historically underserved;
- Establishment or expansion of regional partnerships with organizations to increase access to books.

The ECEF program is also rooted in addressing community need, recognizing the importance of investing in culturally relevant programming and the barriers many of these programs face in accessing public resources. DELC plans to use the infrastructure of ECEF – primarily the eligibility criteria – to establish the Birth Through Five Literacy Program. Current ECEF grantees, as well as non-ECEF grantees that meet ECEF eligibility criteria, would be able to apply for funding through a simplified RFA process in Spring 2024 to begin services in Fall 2024. These funds will be used to address both the quality of care and education in several ways.

- Existing ECEF grantees may build on current ECEF services to:
  - Develop and/or deliver early literacy resources and materials through ECEF-funded parenting education and parent-child interaction activities;
  - Develop and/or deliver culturally relevant early literacy training and professional development activities for both early childhood and early grade educators;
  - Conduct community engagement activities to identify community-specific gaps in early literacy activities to further inform the 2024 Birth Through Five Literacy plan.
- New applicants that meet ECEF eligibility criteria may:
  - Develop and/or deliver culturally relevant early literacy training and professional development activities for both early childhood and early grade educators;
  - Conduct community engagement activities to identified community-specific gaps in early literacy activities to further inform the 2024 Birth Through Five Literacy plan.

Both programs have established infrastructure, grant allocation, and monitoring practices to allow for the seamless distribution of Birth Through Five Funds in the second year of the current biennium. The intention is that these investments will start to develop increased capacity for developmentally appropriate, culturally responsive early literacy practices in communities across the state. This will most directly affect the quality of education gaps, while also ensuring families have access to information and resources to provide quality care at home.

Upon approval of the \$9.4 million limitation increase, DELC will distribute \$4.7 million to the 16 regional Early Learning Hubs to enhance or expand their KPI early literacy activities as described above. DELC will begin developing administrative rules for the Birth Through Five Literacy Program, leveraging the eligibility requirements and some allowable activities of the Early Childhood Equity program as a framework. The agency plans to release a simplified Request for Applications for current ECEF grantees, as well as prospective applicants that meet ECEF criteria, for the remaining \$4.7 million.

### **Kindergarten Readiness Partnership and Innovation**

The Kindergarten Readiness Partnership & Innovation (KPI) program invests in promising models for connecting early learning to kindergarten through third grade (K-3) education across the state and promotes community and school partnerships to ensure schools are ready for students and students are ready for school. As these funds are administered by Oregon’s 16 Early Learning Hubs representing the

entire state, each Hub's KPI investments are focused on priority populations that align with the priority populations in HB 3198 and are informed by locally-driven Hub Sector Plans. The development of Sector Plans includes regional community engagement by each Hub to ensure they respond to local needs and leverage local strengths.

The KPI Program is designed to establish scalable and replicable models for P-3 alignment at the local level, with a focus on shared development for early learning providers and K-3 educators supporting successful transitions into kindergarten for all children, and engaging families as equal partners in children's learning and development. These investments would allow Hubs to more directly address the quality of education through targeted professional development, and support families' access to, and understanding of, early literacy resources for quality care.

#### Examples of Hub-led KPI early literacy work:

1. At the South Coast Regional Hub, the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Early Care and Education's Professional Learning Community (DEI in ECE PLC) is a cross sector cohort of professionals coming together for a 7-session series of learning and discussion about incorporating DEI into their classrooms/family support services, focusing on inclusive practices, and celebrating diversity. Introducing children to stories of children and families with diverse perspectives and backgrounds not only promotes early literacy skills, but also promotes inclusion, compassion, and understanding. Participants included Early Childhood Educators, Home Visitors, Parenting Educators, Children's Librarians, and Kindergarten Teachers. Participants received Children's DEI books, activities for their programs.
2. Marion & Polk Early Learning Hub supports Reach Out and Read with KPI funds. For the last 9 years, the Hub has partnered with local participating pediatric clinics with funding to support the Reach Out and Read Program. There are 7 participating clinics - including the Confederated Tribes of Grande Ronde clinic and the clinics that serve the highest number of children and Oregon Health Plan (OHP) clients. Books handed out must be bilingual to meet the needs of families.

#### KPI Outcomes

The KPI program is [regularly evaluated by Portland State University \(PSU\)](#). As PSU prepares their retrospective report recapping the last 10 years of investments, the following outcomes have been identified:

- January 2018-June 2022: 34,168 children/family members attended KPI-funded Family Engagement and/or Kindergarten Transition events across the state.
- Incoming kindergartners in schools implementing KPI-funded projects were more prepared for school in terms of early literacy compared to their peers who did not attend a school engaged in KPI-funded work.

#### **Early Childhood Equity**

The Early Childhood Equity Fund program was created as part of the 2019 Student Success Act to support a broad range of culturally specific early learning, early childhood, and parent support programs, including: parenting education, parent-child interaction, kindergarten transition (including child and family literacy supports), and Tribal language preservation and revitalization. To be eligible to apply for a

grant, a program must be a culturally specific organization or operate a culturally specific early learning program [as defined](#) by the Early Learning Council. Moneys from the fund are meant to close opportunity gaps for children and families who experience systemic disparities because of any combination of factors – such as race, income, zip code, or language – by funding early learning services rooted in culture, home language, and lived experience. The program currently serves children and families across 18 counties and 25 grantees, including three Tribal nations.

By leveraging the eligibility requirements of ECEF for the Birth Through Five Literacy program and building on its monitoring structure, DELC will be able to target funds to communities that have been historically underserved in order to improve early literacy outcomes through parent engagement and professional development for early childhood educators.

Examples of current community-led ECEF early literacy work:

1. At Mano a Mano Family Center, the oldest Latinx-led community-based organization in the Salem-Keizer area, parent-child interaction and kindergarten transition activities are offered to Spanish-speaking children and caregivers in multiple structured and unstructured formats. The NE Salem site offers a cohort of 20 three-to-five-year-olds and their caregivers the opportunity to participate in [Reggio Emilia](#)-inspired activities, centered around our innate desire to learn through interaction and exploration with our social and physical environment. Culturally specific and other developmentally appropriate toys and books and culturally relevant family activities with individualized supports engage parenting family members, while promoting children’s critical thinking and literacy development through experimentation and play.
2. The Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Indian’s Yisima Preschool provides quality evidence-based early childhood programming to tribal parents and children, as well as non-tribal lower income families. Their services focus on parenting education, parent-child interactions, kindergarten transition and tribal language preservation and revitalization activities in a geographical area facing high levels of poverty and lower levels of educational attainment.

ECEF Outcomes

The ECEF program is evaluated every biennium. With this program initially launching in 2020, the Year One PSU evaluation report shared the following:

- Over 3,041 children served;
- Expansion of availability of linguistically appropriate services;
- Successful implementation of culturally specific approaches to engage families including those in virtual learning spaces (due to COVID-19 pandemic).

**Birth Through Five Literacy Fund Outcomes**

Inputs for Service Delivery	Outcomes & Metrics
<b>Birth Through Five Literacy Plan</b>	
Community Engagement through contracted facilitator, ECEF grantees, and Birth Through Five Literacy Program participants.	<i>Proposed outcomes may expand based on continued community engagement.</i>

Inputs for Service Delivery	Outcomes & Metrics
<p><u>Early Literacy Program Analyst</u>: Coordinate data collection, data analysis, and reporting for the Birth Through Five Literacy Plan and related grant programs.</p> <p><u>Early Literacy Policy Analyst</u>: Programmatic design and management of Birth Through Five Literacy Plan including development of long-range plans, goals, objectives, and milestones.</p>	<p>Outcome 1: Children’s early literacy skill development.</p> <p>Outcome 2: Parent/Caregiver engagement as full partners in children’s literacy development.</p> <p>Outcome 3: Early childhood and early grade shared professional development to promote early literacy.</p>
<b>Kindergarten Readiness Partnership &amp; Innovation</b>	
<p><u>Funding to 16 Early Learning Hubs</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establishment or expansion of parent engagement activities, including book distribution in multiple languages focused on early literacy development;</li> <li>Establishment or expansion of Little Free Libraries in communities that have been historically underserved;</li> <li>Establishment or expansion of regional partnerships to increase access to books.</li> </ul> <p><i>Activities will vary depending on community need.</i></p>	<p><b>Metrics will vary depending on each Hubs’ proposed use of funding based on community need.</b> This data will be collected through Hubs’ quarterly reports.</p> <p><u>Metric 1</u>: Number of families participating in family engagement events or activities.</p> <p><u>Metric 2</u>: Number of families receiving early literacy resources and materials.</p> <p><u>Metric 3</u>: Number of educators participating in early literacy development trainings.</p> <p><u>Metric 4</u>: Number of early literacy trainings offered.</p> <p><u>Metric 5</u>: Number of early literacy resources and materials distributed.</p>
<b>Birth Through Five Literacy Program</b>	
<p><u>Application for Funding to ECEF grantees and eligible applicants</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Early literacy resources and materials development and distribution</li> <li>Culturally relevant early literacy training and professional development</li> <li>Community engagement activities to identify community-specific gaps in early literacy activities to further inform the 2024 Birth Through Five Literacy plan.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Metrics will vary depending on each organizations’ proposed use of funding based on community need.</b> This data will be collected through grantee’s monthly reports.</p> <p><u>Metric 1</u>: Number of families participating in early literacy engagement activities or receiving early literacy resources.</p> <p><u>Metric 2</u>: Number of educators receiving culturally relevant, developmentally appropriate early literacy training.</p> <p><u>Metric 3</u>: Number of early literacy trainings offered.</p>

Inputs for Service Delivery	Outcomes & Metrics
<p><i>Activities will vary by grantee based on application.</i></p>	<p><u>Metric 4</u>: Number of early literacy family engagement activities held.</p> <p><u>Metric 5</u>: Number of culturally relevant early literacy resources distributed.</p> <p>PSU is in the process of developing Outcome and Satisfaction Tools for the ECEF program that may be leveraged for the Birth Through Five Literacy program.</p>

### **Work Plan for Birth Through Five Literacy Fund**

Timeline	Activities
July 2023	HB 3198 passes
July - December 2023	Partner with ODE and Governor’s Office for engagement with sovereign tribal nations through Government-to-Government Education Cluster consultation. External partner engagement through existing tables and review of engagement feedback and analysis from the past two years leading to the standup of DELC. Alignment with <a href="#">Raise Up Oregon</a> system goals.
December - January 2023	DELC submits plan by HB 3198 deadline in budget note: requests funding limitation from Legislature
February - March 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Short session: funding limitation requires legislative approval</li> <li>• Onboarding Early Literacy Specialists (2 positions)</li> <li>• Administrative rulemaking and RFA development</li> </ul>
March - June 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Release RFA for new and existing ECEF grantees</li> <li>• Amend Hub grant agreements to include increases in KPI</li> <li>• Select and award ECEF grantees</li> <li>• Share previously identified key goals and themes for feedback, including alignment with Raise Up Oregon 2.0</li> <li>• Targeted community engagement, focused on families from communities that have been historically underserved and partnering with the Tribal Nations to identify additional early literacy needs and goals that will promote and celebrate culture and (where applicable) bi/multilingual literacy development.</li> <li>• Begin to update Early Learning &amp; Kindergarten Guidelines (ELKG)</li> <li>• Adopt administrative rules for Birth Through Five Literacy program</li> </ul>
July - October 2024	Complete analysis and identify further opportunities for expansion based on community engagement and data reported from KPI and ECEF grantees
December 2024	DELC submits the 2024 Birth Through Five Literacy Plan, including any additional gaps and recommendations for additional investment.

# Community Grant



## **Budget Note:**

“The Department of Education is directed to develop an early literacy success community grant program. The purpose of the grant program is to provide supports to parents and caregivers for early literacy outside of the school setting, and to develop and expand language revitalization efforts by federally recognized Indian tribes in Oregon. The grant program should include a noncompetitive set-aside in the in the Early Literacy Success Community Grant Fund. Remaining funds should be prioritized for programs that engage parents and children from birth through grade five in early literacy activities and provide high-dosage tutoring and/or training for tutors. The Department is encouraged to consider ways to leverage existing Statewide Student Success Plans in its grant program, and to recommend expenditures from the Early Literacy Success Community Grant Fund to implement the plan.

The Department shall report to the Legislature on its plan and funding recommendations no later than December 30, 2023. After approval of the plan for the early literacy success community grant program, the Legislature may provide Other Funds expenditure limitation from the Statewide Education Initiatives Account of up to \$9,999,999 for grants from the Early Literacy Success Community Grant Fund.”

Source: [HB 3198 Budget Note](#), p. 3-4.

**The Early Literacy Community Success Grant (\$10 million)** program, administered by the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) is intended to strengthen and expand community-based services, supports for parents as their children’s first teachers, and sovereign tribal nations to support and sustain indigenous language development.

The Early Literacy Community Success Grant Fund currently has a \$1 statutory appropriation. ODE will require a \$10 million limitation increase to implement the grant program, which is subject to plan approval. ODE’s plan separates the grant funds into two programs: Early Literacy Tribal Grants (\$2 million) and Early Literacy Community Grants (\$8 million).

## **Early Literacy Tribal Grant | \$2 million**

Early Literacy Tribal grants will be a subset of the Community Grants described in HB 3198 and are intended to operationalize the budget note directive to establish a noncompetitive set-aside. The concept of an Early Literacy Tribal grant is the result of a nearly year-long consultation with the nine federally recognized tribal governments in Oregon through government-to-government engagement. In accordance with this consultation, ODE anticipates equally distributing \$2,000,000 to each of the nine tribes to support early literacy and language revitalization. More specifically, each tribe will receive \$220,000 with \$20,000 for administrative purposes.



The Community Grant and Early Literacy Tribal Grant will be administered in accordance with the legislation, which describes the intent to have these resources:

- Expand culturally and linguistically responsive early literacy programs by encouraging family and caregiver engagement and providing research-aligned professional training and coaching for direct service staff in early literacy.
- Develop and implement programs that engage parents and children in in early literacy
- Provide high-dosage tutoring and training to tutors to qualify them for instruction in a manner consistent with research-aligned strategies.
- Expand and develop language revitalization efforts by federally recognized tribes.

Each Tribe will develop a Project Plan identifying how funds will be utilized in support of Early Literacy and Language revitalization. ODE’s Office of Indian Education (OIE) in partnership with tribal governments will provide technical assistance and develop resources for Native communities to increase Early Literacy efforts within Tribes. Funds may be used for the purposes above and to build momentum and capacity to strengthen belonging and literacy instruction aimed at transitioning children into elementary school proficient in reading and writing in one or more languages.

**Outcomes**

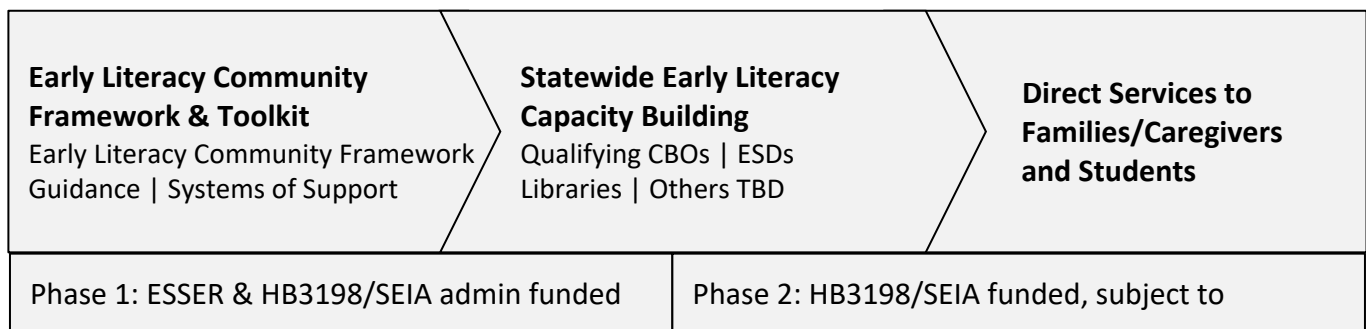
Inputs for Service Delivery	Outcomes & Indicators
<p>ODE cross-agency coordination between the Early Literacy Tribal Grant and implementation of the American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) Student Success Plan, which contains early literacy and language goals.</p> <p>ODE OIE FTE: 1 Education Specialist FTE and 1 PA4 who will facilitate the process, provide grant administration, technical assistance, and framework for inclusion in the ODE cross-agency Early Literacy Success.</p> <p>Submission of individual Tribal Project Plans, Release of Funds, Reporting, and Evaluation.</p>	<p>Outcomes and indicators will build from the <a href="#">AI/AN Student Success Plan</a> goals associated with Early Literacy efforts and connections and work towards language development and revitalization, including culturally responsive books, literacy tutoring programs, literacy professional development, and training for staff and families.</p> <p>Indicators to be determined and outlined in each Tribal Project plan submitted to ODE and include outcomes of the following (non-inclusive):</p> <p><u>Outcome 1</u>: Children’s early literacy skill development</p> <p><u>Outcome 2</u>: Children’s language development</p> <p><u>Outcome 3</u>: Parent/Caregiver/Family engagement as full partners in children’s literacy development</p> <p><u>Outcome 4</u>: Increase access to early literacy support that is research-aligned, culturally responsive, student-centered, and family-centered</p>

## Work Plan

Timeline	Activities
July 2023	HB 3198 passes
July-December 2023 <i>Ongoing/continuing</i>	ODE and Governor’s office engagement with tribal nations through government-to-government education cluster consultation
December 2023	ODE submits plan by HB 3198 deadline in the budget note with input from consultation. Requests funding from legislature
December 2023 – February 2024	Hiring of Early Literacy FTE. Onboarding will be ongoing.
February - March 2024	Short session; funding requested requires legislative approval
April 2024	Pending legislative approval, grant agreements sent to tribal nations
June 2024	Tribal Early Literacy Grant Proposals submitted by each Tribal nation; distribution
Jan 2024 - June 2025	ODE develops Indigenous guidance and frameworks to support Tribes and monitoring of grants.

## Early Literacy Community Grant | \$8 million

The budget directive calls for ODE to develop a community grant program to support families with early literacy outside of the school setting. After the noncompetitive component for sovereign tribal nations, remaining funds must be directed to prioritize funding for programs that engage families and children from birth through grade three in early literacy activities and provide high-dosage tutoring and training for tutors. ODE anticipates allocating \$8 million for the Early Literacy Community Grant. Due to the funding structures and to achieve the outcomes, the plan is divided into two phases leveraging multiple funding sources to maximize new resources with the Community Grant.



In accordance with the vision that Governor Kotek outlined, the implementation of the Community Grant will be aligned with the implementation of the School Grant and the Birth through Five Plan so

that we build and use consistent reading and writing strategies grounded in decades of research and which are culturally and linguistically responsive.

**Phase 1 (August 2023 to March 2024):** ODE developed the Oregon Literacy Framework and Playbook that are foundational resources to inform and reinforce culturally responsive practice and reading science as fundamental to children’s literacy and biliteracy development. The Early Literacy Success Initiative School Grant program is directly supporting the implementation of the Oregon Literacy Framework in school districts.

Following that model, ODE will design a corollary tool for communities – the Early Literacy Community Framework and Toolkit. The Community Framework and Toolkit will be implemented with support from the early Literacy Success Initiative Community Grant program. The tool and grant program will address and provide resources for community organizations and the parents/caregivers they work with to support children outside of school hours.

The Community Framework and Toolkit will be developed with a commitment to addressing the needs of student groups that have historically experienced academic disparities as defined by HB3198.<sup>2</sup> It will aim to give families and communities guidance and support for children’s diverse needs through culturally and linguistically responsive practices while also considering a range of abilities.

Community engagement will inform the design and focus of the Community Framework and Toolkit as well as the grant program. They will address the following, as outlined in HB 3198:

1. Expand culturally and linguistically responsive early literacy programs by encouraging family and caregiver engagement and providing research-aligned professional training and coaching for direct service staff in early literacy.
2. Develop and implement programs that engage parents and children in early literacy.
3. Provide high-dosage tutoring and training to tutors to qualify them for instruction in a manner consistent with research-aligned strategies.

**Phase 2 (March 2023 to June 2025):** ODE will conduct a statewide Request for Applications process to administer the community grants. The grants will provide additional resources to community organizations to implement the Early Literacy Community Toolkit and Framework. ODE will:

- Facilitate a statewide RFA process for organizations to provide programs and services aligned with the three purposes named above.

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<sup>2</sup>HB3198, Section 1: Student groups that have historically experienced academic disparities means: (a) Economically disadvantaged students, as determined under rules adopted by the State Board of Education; (b) Students from racial or ethnic groups that have historically experienced academic disparities, as determined under rules adopted by the State Board of Education; (c) Students with disabilities; (d) Students who are English language learners; (e) Students who are foster children, as defined in ORS 30.297; (f) Students who are homeless, as determined under rules adopted by the State Board of Education; (g) Students who attend an elementary school that: (A) Is identified for comprehensive support and improvement or for targeted support and improvement under the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (P.L. 114-95, 129 Stat. 1802); or (B) Qualifies for assistance under Title I of the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965; or (h) Any other student groups that have historically experienced academic disparities, as determined under rules adopted by the State Board of Education by rule.

- Conduct extensive outreach to raise awareness about the grant opportunity, including a need to provide services statewide. Outreach will be informed by an equity lens which includes geographic, racial/ethnic, cultural, and linguistic diversity; and which address the student populations who historically experienced academic barriers to opportunity. This includes reaching out to culturally specific CBOs, indigenous communities (who may not qualify for Tribal grants), ESDs, and other qualifying organizations across Oregon.
- Provide technical assistance for the organizations to apply and professional development and support to implement the Framework and Toolkit.
- Monitor implementation using multiple measures that may include pre/post data collections, interviews, number of grantee staff trained, number of families/students served by grantees, and number of grantees who have MOUs with districts to coordinate services.

**Outcomes**

<b>Inputs for Service Delivery</b>	<b>Outcomes &amp; Indicators</b> Where applicable, indicators will be disaggregated by focal student and family groups and geographic representation.
<p>ODE cross-agency leadership coordination with Early Literacy Success Initiative</p> <p><b>Phase 1</b></p> <p>4 ODE FTE: 2 Education Specialist FTE and 2 PA4 who will facilitate the process and develop the Framework (Funding: Statewide Education Initiatives Account administrative allocation in HB3198)</p> <p>Contracted support to conduct community engagement with communities represented across Oregon and from focal student groups. Contracting is necessary so community partners can engage in phase 1 without being excluded from the phase 2 RFA. (Funding: ESSER)</p> <p><b>Phase 2</b></p> <p>Continued facilitation by 4 ODE FTE (Funding: SEIA administrative allocation in HB 3198)</p> <p>Early Literacy Success Community Grant (Funding: \$8 million in HB 3198, pending release of the limitation)</p>	<p><u>Outcome 1:</u> Build the capacity of CBOs, indigenous communities, ESDs, libraries, and other qualifying organizations across Oregon to effectively engage families in early literacy development.</p> <p>Indicators will include developing the Early Literacy Community Toolkit, number of organization members trained, and representation of trainees.</p> <p><u>Outcome 2:</u> Parent/Caregiver engagement as full partners in children’s literacy development</p> <p>Indicators to include pre and post data on the number of grantee staff trained, number of families/students served by grantees, and number of grantees who have MOUs with districts to coordinate services. Indicators will also be developed to assess progress on the readiness of grantees and parents/caregivers to provide literacy supports.</p> <p><u>Outcome 3:</u> Children’s early literacy skill development</p> <p>Indicators to be determined as part of the Toolkit development</p>

## **Work Plan**

<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Activities</b>
July 2023	HB 3198 passes
<b>Phase 1</b>	
August 2023 -January 2024	ODE builds capacity to lead the work (onboards 3 FTE, contracts with an organization for community engagement, establishes temporary rules, and coordinates plan with the Early Literacy Success Initiative)
December 2023 - April 2024	ODE develops the Early Literacy Community Framework and Toolkit informed by community
December 2023	ODE submits plan by HB 3198 deadline in budget note; requests funding from the Legislature  Executes contract with Oregon Kitchen Table (OKT) for community engagement
January – March 2024	OKT conducts community engagement in partnership with ODE  Short session; funding requested in December report requires legislative approval
<b>Phase 2</b>	
March - July 2024	Pending legislative approval, conducts RFA process and awards grants
July 2024	Grantees begin implementing the Early Literacy Community Framework and Toolkit. ODE will collect feedback from grantees and other community members to inform ongoing refinements to the Framework and Toolkit.