

THE EARLY LITERACY SUCCESS INITIATIVE: WHAT'S NEXT FOR OUR STATE'S FOCUSED INVESTMENT IN EARLY LITERACY

Reading is the foundational skill to enable success in school and life. **Children who are not on grade level for reading by the end of third grade are four times more likely to drop out of high school.** Before the pandemic, only 46% of all students, and 26% of Black students were reading proficiently by third grade. Only three states have scores lower than Oregon. These tragic results reflect a changeable systemic problem that must be solved with urgency.

The Early Literacy Success Initiative is a statewide, equity-centered solution that supports students and educators alike.

The initiative aims to improve reading outcomes for Oregon students by implementing a research-proven, targeted, transparent, and accountable statewide solution. Historically underserved students must be at the center of a school's planning and progress, and interventions would be taken should gaps not start to close.

This accountability-driven approach has already proven to work for Oregon students. Since the implementation of targeted, research-aligned funding from Measure 98, the state has seen a record 6.5% increase in high school graduation rates, with students of color and low-income students making the biggest gains.

We now turn our focus to supporting implementation.

The Oregon State Legislature passed the Early Literacy Success Initiative (HB 3198) and allocated \$144 million in funding. The Governor signed the bill into law in early August. Our hard work paid off!

Districts will be able to apply for grants that **can be used for four things:**



1 Literacy coaching to support educators.



2 Culturally responsive **summer learning opportunities** that occur at school, a community-based program, or in the home.



3 **High-dosage tutoring** for students who need more time and intensive support.



4 Adopting and implementing an **early literacy curriculum, professional learning opportunities, and culturally relevant instructional materials** that are aligned with the science of reading and writing.