

FY27 Competitive Grants for Multilingual Learners

Informational Webinar

August 5, 2026



Agenda

What's New in FY27?

Overview of FY27 grants

- FC0181: Increasing Access to Dual Language Bilingual Education
- FC0182: Strengthening ESL Programming and Services
- FC0189: Proficiency Outcomes in World Languages

Grant Application Process

- Timeline
- GEM\$ Reminders
- Useful links

AI Notice

- *Please be advised that DESE does not authorize attendees to record or to use AI transcription tools during the meeting and DESE does not endorse any unauthorized transcripts created by third parties of its meetings.*

Q&A Notice

- Because these are competitive grants, we will not have a Q&A session in this presentation.
- We will share a link to a Padlet in the chat, please add your questions to the Padlet.
- All questions submitted to the Padlet will be answered in a Q&A document that will be posted on the ELE home page along with this presentation.
- If you have additional questions after this webinar, please email them to Diana.Gentile@mass.gov.

DESE's Educational Vision



- **All** students in Massachusetts, particularly students from historically underserved groups and communities, will have equitable opportunities to excel in all content areas across all grades. Culturally and linguistically sustaining classroom and school practices will support students to thrive by creating affirming environments where students have a sense of belonging, engage in deeper learning, and are held to high expectations with targeted support.

What guides our work?



Build our collective capacity to meet the needs of specific student groups, with a focus on newcomers, SLIFE, and ELs with disabilities.



Continuously increase the number of students who graduate from high school with the state Seal of Biliteracy by ensuring all students have access to high-quality multilingual programs, including bilingual, heritage language, and world language.



Improve outcomes for multilingual learners by increasing access to grade-appropriate, culturally and linguistically sustaining instruction, and leverage compliance monitoring as a tool to support this work.

Our goal is that as a result of their public education in Massachusetts, students will:

Attain academic knowledge and skills: achieve in a comprehensive and diverse range of subjects and apply their competencies in relevant, real-world contexts

Understand and value self: know their own strengths, interests, and areas of growth, be self-aware, be a self-advocate, and make responsible decisions

Understand and value others: understand differences and multiple perspectives, empathize with others, and build connections with peers and adults

Engage with the world: understand and think critically about local, national, and world events and societal systems; and create positive change through civic action

So that they:

Be curious and creative: find joy in learning, pursue their interests, and use innovative thinking to approach opportunities and solve challenges, including those previously unseen

Shape their path: determine and be well prepared to thrive in college and/or career

Feel connected: see themselves as valuable and involved members of communities and be aware of their interdependence and interdependence

Be empowered: play a role in advocating for equity, justice, and liberation for their communities and beyond

What's new in FY27?

FY27 Changes

- The FC0181, which previously included goals related to both Dual Language Bilingual Education and ESL has been revised to focus **exclusively on DLBE**, funding new and expanding bilingual education programs as well as Bilingual Education Hubs to improve the Bilingual educator pipeline and foster multi-district DLBE program collaboration
- The **NEW** FC0182 Strengthening ESL Programming and Services grant includes funding for adopting or developing and implementing High-Quality ESL Curriculum as well as ESL Teacher Hubs to improve the ESL educator pipeline

FC0181: Increasing Access to Dual Language Bilingual Education

FC0181 Overview

- As a result of *Question 2*, the only allowable EL instruction in Massachusetts from 2002 to 2017 was Sheltered English Immersion (SEI).
 - By the time of LOOK Act (2017), there was a desert of bilingual programs and resources in the state
- Our goal is to create the conditions to **promote multilingualism for all students** through bilingual education
- The Increasing Access to Dual Language Bilingual Education grant (0181) is designed to seed and nurture bilingual programs

FC0181 Overview

There are two goals for the FY27 FC0181

Goal 1

Plan and launch a new Dual Language Bilingual Education (DLBE) program or expand an existing DLBE program.

Goal 2

Create or continue a "grow your own" Bilingual Education hub

- that would support and encourage multi-district collaboration with approved education preparation programs, improve the Bilingual Education educator pipeline, share knowledge to accelerate the adoption of proven and recognized programmatic models for English learners, and develop successful models that can be replicated for years to come.

FC0181 Goal 1

Goal 1 has two distinct objectives; starting a new DLBE program or expanding an existing DLBE program. Applicants may only apply for Goal 1a OR 1b

Goal 1a:

- Plan and develop a **new** dual language bilingual education (DLBE) program that will serve English learners, with the intention to launch the new program within 2-3 years

Goal 1b:

- Plan for the **expansion and/or growth of existing** DLBE program(s) that will serve ELs in your district. This could include expanding an existing program into a new grade span (i.e., growing an elementary program into a middle school program), or planning to launch a new program in another language.

FC0181 Goal 1a Requirements

Applicants must **NOT** have an existing DLBE program

Applicants **must demonstrate demographics conducive to launching a DLBE program**: a critical mass of students with a common language, at least 20 ELs in the target school and grade level.

Applicants **submit Affidavit of Understanding** of commitment to participating in the “Planning & Launch” cohort of DESE’s DLBE Community of Practice during the 2026-27 school year, which will involve attending monthly CoP sessions and collaborating with the CoP vendor partner and DESE staff.

Applicants must **submit recent Castañeda** or similar current program evaluations

Awardees for Goal 1a **will be required to submit their planning tool to OLA and/or present results of funding at an OLA Network Meeting.**

FC0181 Goal 1b Requirements

Applicants must have an **existing** DLBE program that they would like to expand. This could include expanding an existing program into a new grade span (i.e., growing an elementary program into a middle school program), or planning to launch the program in another language.

Applicants **must submit recent Castañeda** or similar current program evaluations (Year 1)

Applicant **must apply in partnership with an Institution of Higher Education (IHE)** (Year 2)

Applicants **must submit Affidavit of Understanding** of their commitment to participating in the “Expand and Sustain” cohort of DESE’s DLBE Community of Practice during the 2026-27 school year, which will involve attending bimonthly CoP sessions and collaborating with the CoP vendor partner and/or DESE staff.

Awardees for Goal 1b will be **required to submit their planning tool** to OLA and/or **present results of funding at an OLA Network Meeting**.

Which Goal 1 Option Should Your District Apply For?

Applicants may apply for Goal 1A **OR** Goal 1B **not both**.



FC0181 Goal 1 Fund Use

Grant funds may be used:

For Goal 1A: Stipend educators for their engagement in the planning team and/or Community of Practice and/or substitute coverage for educators to attend CoP.

For Goal 1B: Additional professional development, consultation, or technical assistance outside of that which is already provided through the CoP to build district capacity for launching a new DLBE program, purchase of curricular materials and resources needed to expand the DLBE program

Grant funds may NOT be used for:

Out of state travel

Food or any other costs associated with district/school events for staff, students, or family/other stakeholders.

FC0181 Goal 2

Goal 2: Create (and cultivate) or continue a "grow your own" bilingual education hub that would support and encourage statewide initiative and collaboration, improve the Bilingual Education educator pipeline, share knowledge to accelerate the adoption of proven and recognized programmatic models for English learners, and develop successful models that can be replicated for years to come.

Districts applying for Goal 2 funding will submit ONE application on behalf of the hub. The district submitting the application will act as fiscal manager for the hub. Other participating districts will provide an affirmation of their participation (i.e., superintendent's email) to be included in the application.

FC0181 Goal 2 Requirements



Applicants **must apply in partnership with an Institution of Higher Education**



Application **must include affidavit(s) of participation** from Superintendent(s)/Chief Officer(s) of partner district(s), if any

FC0181 Goal 2 Fund Use

Grant funds may be used for:

Contracts with an IHE

Tuition

Textbooks/materials
for program recipients

PD that directly
contributes to
Licensure or
Bilingual/DL
Endorsement

Grant funds may NOT be used for:

Out of state travel

Food or any other costs
associated with
district/school events for
staff, students, or
family/other stakeholders.

Professional Development
that does not directly
contribute to Licensure or
Bilingual Education
Endorsement.

FC0182: Strengthening ESL Programming and Services

FC0182 Overview

There are two goals for the FY27 FC0182

Goal 1

Adopt, Develop, or Implement High-Quality ESL Curriculum

The purpose is to support districts in providing high quality ESL curriculum to English learners (ELs).

Goal 2

Create (and cultivate) a "grow your own" ESL Teacher hub

The purpose is to improve the ESL educator pipeline and will provide training alongside a mentor teacher and concurrent coursework in the area of ESL licensure.

FC0182 Goal 1 Objectives

3 Distinct Objectives

Depending on the current state of the district's ESL curriculum, applicants should

apply for one

of the three paths available (1A, 1B, 1C).

1a: Evaluate and Select

The district is seeking to review existing ESL curricular materials in order **to select and adopt** materials for specific grade span(s) and/or proficiency levels.

1b: Evaluate and Develop

The district is seeking **to develop** ESL curricular materials for specific grade span(s) and/or proficiency levels

1c: Implement and Monitor

The district has recently adopted or developed new ESL curricular materials and is seeking to develop a comprehensive plan to support educators' effective implementation of the materials

FC0182 Goal 1 Requirements

Applicants must submit an **Affidavit of Understanding** of commitment to the requirements below:

Applicants awarded for 1a or 1b

required to participate in a NGESL Curriculum Design Facilitated Cohort.

Applicants awarded for 1c

required to participate in technical assistance sessions to support their implementation plan.



FC0182 Goal 1 Fund Use

Grant funds may be used:



STIPENDS



CURRICULAR
MATERIALS



SUPPLEMENTAL
PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT
OR TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE

Grant funds may NOT be used for:

- Out of state travel
- Food or any other costs associated with district/school events for staff, students, or family/other stakeholders

FC0182 Goal 2

Goal 2: Create (and cultivate) or continue a "grow your own" **ESL Teacher hub** that would improve the ESL educator pipeline and will provide training alongside a mentor teacher and concurrent coursework in the area of ESL licensure.

- **Districts applying for Goal 2 funding will submit ONE application on behalf of the hub. The district submitting the application will act as fiscal manager for the hub. Other participating districts will provide an affirmation of their participation (i.e., superintendent's email) to be included in the application.**

FC0182 Goal 2 Fund Use

Grant funds may be used:



CONTRACTS WITH
IHES



TUITION,
TEXTBOOKS/MATER
IALS FOR
PROGRAM
PARTICIPANTS

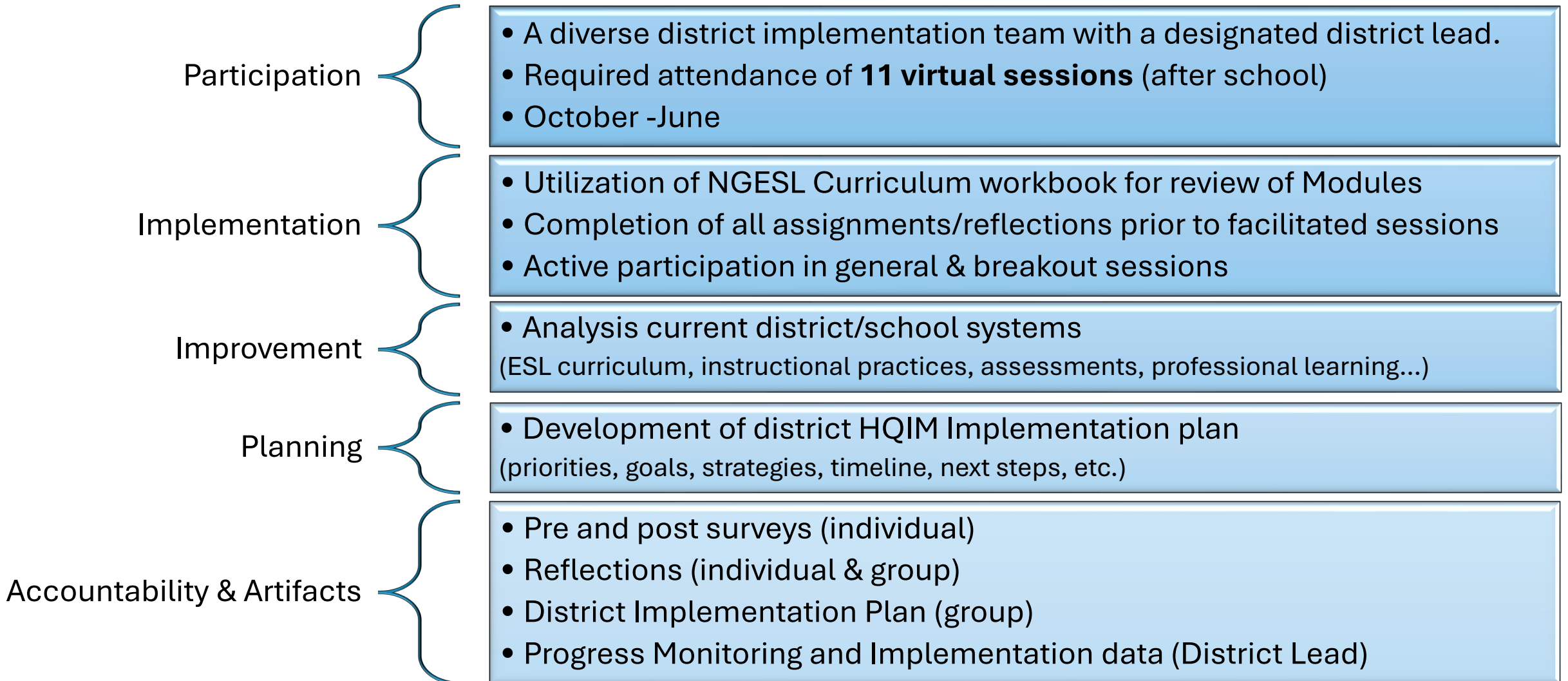


PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT
THAT
CONTRIBUTES
DIRECTLY TO ESL
LICENSURE

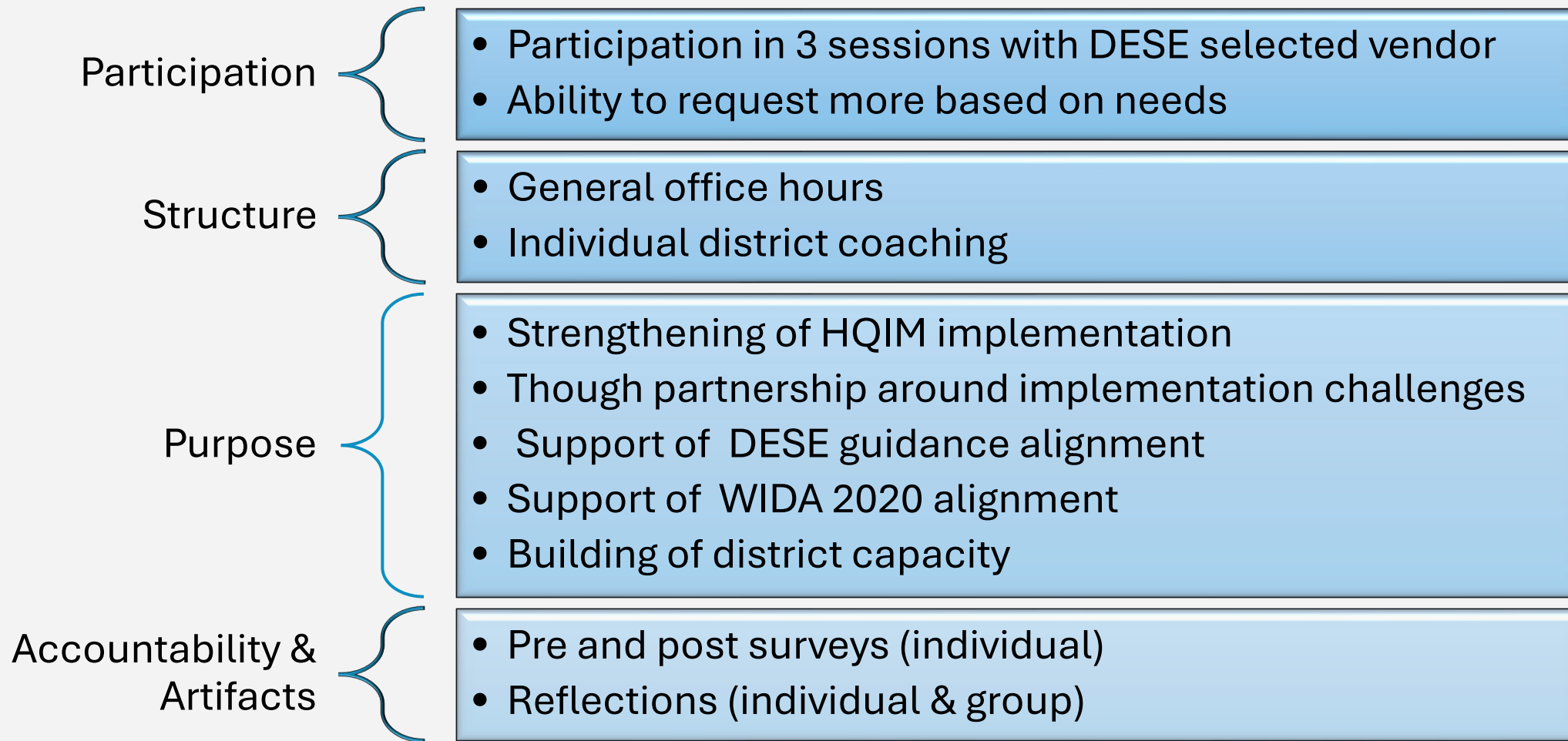
Grant funds may NOT be used for:

- Out of state travel
- Food or any other costs associated with district/school events for staff, students, or family/other stakeholders
- Professional development that does not contribute directly to ESL licensure

Curriculum Design Facilitated Cohort



Technical Assistance Sessions



FC0189: Proficiency Outcomes in World Languages

What Is FC189: Proficiency Outcomes in World Languages?

A competitive DESE grant for districts, charter schools, collaboratives, and partnerships

Centers on WL programming with an equity lens

Supports data-driven, standards-aligned, multilingual programming to support students to attain the MA Seal of Biliteracy

Core Activities for Districts Receiving FC189 Funds

Administer WL assessments
which (in the case of high
school students) are approved
for the Seal of Biliteracy

Convene Local WL Advisory
Team

Share Insights with DESE
WLAT

Core Commitments



Implement assessments
and analyze assessment data



Convene local WLAT



Engage in state WLAT



Continue to align to 2021
Framework



Attend MAFLA, proficiency-
aligned PD (e.g., fall
conference, core practices,
proficiency academy, etc.)



Consent to
possible observations

Administering and Using Assessments



- Select Seal-approved tests
- Milestone limitations:
 - 4
(elementary/middle/high)
 - 3 (middle/high)
 - 2 (high only)
- Analyze and share results

Convening Local WL Advisory Team

- Diverse team composition
- Analyze data
- Identify equity gaps
- Recommend changes



Engaging in the Statewide WLAT



- 1–2 reps
- Collaborate and share data
- Inform state guidance
- Tentatively scheduled for 9:30-11:30 AM on:
 - 12/4/2026
 - 1/29/2027
 - 3/26/2027
 - 5/21/2027

Funding Overview: FC 189 funds may be used for:



ASSESSMENTS



TIME (STIPENDS/SUBS)

Funding – Assessments

\$25 per test

Milestones:

4 (elem/middle/high)

3 (middle/high)

2 (high only)



Funding – Time (Stipends/Subs)



- Max Support:
 - \$10k (single-component program)
 - \$15k (multi-component program)
- Additional Stipulations:
 - \$2k WLAT rep
 - \$1.5k Local advisory team staff
 - \$1k Academy rep
- Exceptions allowed with justification

FC0189 Required Submission Materials 2



Assurance form



GEM\$ Required Narrative



Three spreadsheets:

SY2025-26 WL Enrollment & Access reflection

SY2025-26 Assessment reflection

SY2026-27 Assessment plan

FC0189 Evaluation Criteria

Required:

- Public school district or public charter school (or partnership) with a WL program
- Superintendent approval in GEM\$

Prioritized:

- Strategic Transformation Region
- High number of ELs
- Past participation in WLAT (SY2025-26)
- Breadth and equity of WL program offerings and assessment practices
- Degree of alignment to the 2021 WL Framework
- Quality of advisory team engagement and reflection

GEM\$ Reminders

- **The due date for all three grants is Friday, August 28th at 5:00 pm EDT**
- **Your application MUST be LEA Superintendent/Chief Executive Approved before the deadline.** If your application is not LEA Superintendent /Chief Executive Approved then your application is not complete and will not be considered.
- Please make sure that your LEA Superintendent/Chief Executive is aware of this requirement and of your intention to apply, and plan to submit your application in time to ensure that your LEA Superintendent/Chief Executive has ample time to approve it before the deadline.
- These grants are competitive. If your application is not completed by the deadline, we can't help you.

Thank you!

If you have additional questions after this webinar, please email them to Diana.Gentile@mass.gov. All questions that were submitted to the padlet or are emailed will be posted to the ELE home page along with this presentation. The Q&A document will be updated as questions are submitted.