

**Questions submitted as of January 5, 2022**

1. In researching the cost of new materials, it appears that for 320 K-5 students and 15 teachers, the cost would be around $65,000. Is that accurate? It seems high to me, and I don’t want to price us out of receiving the grant.

*Without seeing the cost of the materials you hope to order, I wouldn’t be able to tell if your*   *calculations are correct. Materials and resources can be costly and the cap for this grant is*   *$200,000 per district, well below your stated cost.*

1. Is there an opportunity for homeschool families to apply for this grant?

*No. Per the grant eligibility section, "All Massachusetts public school districts, charter schools,*  *collaboratives, and approved special education programs are eligible to apply." Homeschooling*  *does not meet the stated eligibility requirement.*

1. How should we approach the budget worksheet if we would be a district that has not yet completed the approval process and therefore don’t have a known cost for the curriculum materials? I can imagine how we would estimate for the PD and stipends but unclear about curriculum resources which are in many respects the heart of the grant.

*The grant provides funding for the review process and the district should use the budget*  *worksheet to include a likely or perceived cost based on the costs of the programs being*  *reviewed. The likely cost of professional development should also be included.*

1. If we planned to purchase materials and do initial PD before June 30th, is it legitimate to plan for a train the trainer model and then have the district fund wider-spread training in the fall of 2022 for implementation middle of that school year or later?

*Yes. Your district can use funding from this grant for a wide variety of high-quality professional*  *development models including a train the trainer model. If the district plans to fund additional*  *training with local funding, that plan/information should be included within the application.*

1. …Are districts invited to apply if they have not yet determined which core program they will be adopting?  We are transitioning from (Program) and looking at 4 programs recommended through CURATE and EdReports.  We have not yet identified the program we will be adopting but we hope to still apply for the grant.

*Yes. The grant provides stipends for those participating in the selection of new curriculum and/or materials (*[*see grant for specific requirements*](https://www.doe.mass.edu/grants/2022/730-719/)*), with the intent to purchase new materials prior to June 30,* ***2022****.*

1. We have implemented a new curriculum this year, which is rated as “meets expectations” in all categories through CURATE…Would we be able to apply for this grant and utilize this wonderful opportunity for the 2022-2023 school year?  Please let me know.

*No. Funding must be spent by* ***June 30, 2022*** *(the end of FY22).*

1. We are a charter school that uses (name of HQIM) already and we are wondering if this grant would be eligible towards materials/coaching and PD for our school for our Accelerated Literacy.  When applying for this a grant…do… we need to apply for a certain amount or is there an amount that is allotted to us like some of the grants?

*Yes. You are eligible to apply for materials and professional development as part of this grant.*

*Yes, you must apply for a specific amount of funding. On the Budget Worksheet, please request the funding you require for the materials and professional development.*

1. I am wondering if (name of community) (PK-6, 120 students) qualifies for this grant. We worked with our SSOS team last year, using the Curate model to rate our previous ELA curriculum and explored and ultimately chose to go with (name of HQIM). We did buy some of the curriculum but are still in need of resources such as books and pd support for teachers. Would this grant be worth pursuing for (name of community)?

*Yes. Your district is eligible to apply for materials and professional development as described in the grant.*

1. Our district is currently in the middle of a literacy curriculum selection process for K-8. The grant asks that we choose one grade band.  Are we allowed to choose K-5 and 6-8 or do we need to stick to one?  We plan to purchase materials for implementation K-8 next year.

*Yes. You may apply for grades K-8. Choose “other” in the grade band section.*

1. (Our district) has (several) innovation schools who have considerable additional autonomy.  One of them is transitioning to a dual language school.  This school may or may not want to use (selected HQIM) in grades 3-5 next year.  Would this eliminate (our district) from consideration?

*No. A school that is transitioning to a dual language school would not have to be included in your grant application as the HQIM chosen may not be available in other languages.*

1. I was hoping to apply for BOTH replacing our Core program in grades 6-8 and implementing a Foundational Skills program in grade 2 (we've already done K-1).  Can I apply for both on one grant application, or do I need to apply for two?  Or should I just pick one to apply for (grade 2 OR 6-8)? Thanks for any insight!

*Yes. You can apply for grade 2 and grades 6-8 on one application. It should be noted that funding could be allocated to either just grade 2, just grades 6-8 or grade 2 and grades 6-8.*

1. In looking at the [Accelerating Literacy Learning with High-Quality Instructional Materials](https://www.doe.mass.edu/grants/2022/730-719/) grant, I understand that there are specific materials that can be purchased with the money. My district needs to buy high quality decodable texts and more copies of the (Program Named) curriculum materials in order to continue to increase the quality of our literacy instruction for our youngest learners. Could I apply for funding for those materials?

*Yes. Decodable texts and materials could be purchased if the district provides evidence that the books are used to support high quality curricular as identified in EdReports and/or CURATE*.

1. In (name of town), our district is beginning the process of selecting new ELA materials. We are committed to following a thorough selection process following the DESE guidelines for evaluation and selecting high-quality materials. We are planning to form a committee this coming winter/spring to investigate materials and then pilot our top choices during the 2022-23 school year.

I am very interested in applying for this grant however the timeline is faster than we have planned.

For an option - Could we apply for only the section committee stipends for this school year and then apply for additional grant funding should it become available after June 2022?

*No. There is no guarantee that funds for curriculum will be available in FY 23.* *The purpose of the grant is to equip schools and districts with the* ***high-quality core instructional materials*** *needed to accelerate literacy learning, particularly as schools recover from extended closures and students require rich instructional support to accelerate their learning.*

1. My team and I are currently going through the evaluating and selecting high quality materials process with DESE. I am emailing to see if we would be eligible to apply for this grant given our status as an out of district placement.

*Yes. Your school is eligible to apply for this grant.*

1. Is it possible that a district might be approved for a lesser amount than was requested - or is it an all or nothing decision? We are a small district in the midst of a core literacy program review with (name of a vendor) and hope to be able to purchase curriculum materials this spring to replace (current program).

*Yes. After a review of the district’s application, if approved, DESE could offer partial funding of your proposal.*

1. …should (I) submit separate applications for different grade spans (K-5 and 6-8, e.g.) or if it's OK to submit one grant application for our entire district?

*Yes. You can submit one application and check “Other” on the application. Please indicate the grade spans for which you are applying.*

1. I was wondering if the Literacy Learning with High Quality Instructional Materials grant program replaces the GLEAM grant from last year? Will GLEAM run this year? If both are happening, what is the difference between the two grant programs?

*No. This grant does NOT replace the federal GLEAM grant. Information regarding GLEAM can be found* [*here.*](https://www.doe.mass.edu/instruction/gleam/)

1. Will selection preference be given to school districts who have already completed the curriculum selection process?

*No. No preference will be given. Districts that have already completed the curriculum selection process should describe their process rather than share a proposed selection process.*

1. I understand the criteria regarding CURATE and EdReports but have a question: Wit and Wisdom is listed through Great Minds, but Geodes, the decodable texts are not. Might the fact that these are related suffice for funding purposes? We had hoped to invest in decodable texts and wanted to confirm whether these materials might meet the criteria.

*Yes. The Geode books could be purchased if the district provides evidence that the books are used to support high quality curricular as identified in EdReports and/or CURATE.*

1. My district is not small or underperforming but does use some of the identified low-quality curricula (programs named) in most of our elementary classrooms.  Would we still be eligible to apply for the Accelerating Literacy Grant?  Or is it targeted to districts that meet all 3 or 2/3 of the criteria - small, underperforming, using low-quality materials? We do use a systematic phonics curriculum, (program named), in many classrooms K-3, and would prefer to continue using it. Are there approved materials this grant covers that can be used with our current phonics program, or would it need to be replaced? Finally, I am not certain we would be able to choose new curricula by January 7; do you know if more similar grants may be available in the near future?

*Yes. Your district is eligible to apply for Grant 730. Priority is given to districts meeting some or all the criteria listed on the grant.*

*Materials could be purchased if the district provides evidence that these materials are used to support high quality curricular as identified in EdReports and/or CURATE.*

*At this time, it is not known if there will be additional funding in support of this grant or similar grants.*

1. I read through the details on the DOE website, and it indicates a January 7th due date.   Seemed like a very quick turnaround and was wondering if this in fact is the case and will there be an extension or another opportunity in 2022 for districts to submit.

*Yes, this is a quick turnaround, and there is no extension. It is not known if there will be another opportunity in FY23.*

1. We are interested in applying for this grant K-12. Is this a possibility? I notice that the directions for the checkboxes for grade spans says to "check one." I assume I could put this alternative grade span in "Other" but I didn't want to write the grant without confirming.

*Yes. Your district can apply for K-12 by checking “Other” and then listing the grade span.*

1. My district will be applying for the 730 grant.  We need to select one grade band only correct? Our district planning for literacy acceleration is K-8 however I believe we would need to apply for K-5.

*No. You may select more than one grade band. For example, you could select grade 2, and grades 4-5. While your planning may include K-8, perhaps you are seeking funding for only some of those grades through this grant. Please select “Other” on the grant application if your request falls outside some of the grade bands options listed on the application.*