

**Grant FC730 Accelerating Literacy Learning through High Quality Instructional Materials**

**Responses to Submitted Questions as of January 11, 2023**

1. Do we need to have piloted the selected curriculum already? Or (can) we engage in a pilot process this spring?

*A: No, the piloting of materials is not required; however, this grant* ***does not******fund pilot materials*.**

1. Our district is nearing the conclusion of our full year review of core programs for literacy for our students k-5. We are nearing a conclusion and would have a program chosen to purchase and implement in the coming weeks. We have quotes from each publisher/provider, and we can speak to the costs for implementation.  However, if we are unable to select before the deadline, can I submit the application sharing all the quotes from the different vendors? If selected, we could then amend?

*A: Yes. Districts/schools can be nearing the close of their selection process and may not have identified their selected program just yet. Recipients of funding from this grant, will submit quote(s) from their selected programs for review and approval from DESE. Once the quote is approved, the district/school can move forward with their purchase. For the purpose of submitting a proposed budget for this grant (Part ii), the district/school should include the amount on the highest quote. The amount can be adjusted once a final program decision has been made.*

1. We are in the midst of reviewing materials from several of the vendors who are in the "Meeting expectations" category on CURATE.  Given the deadline for the grant, I don't know that our review and selection process will be complete.  I wondered if the process needs to be complete for us to qualify for the grant.  For example, if we have narrowed our selection to (Program A), (Program B) and (Program C), would we be able to submit the grant with blanket cost estimates for these programs while we are finalizing our selection?  Or would we need to only be able to submit the grant with the name of one final program in mind?

*A: Your curriculum selection process does* ***NOT*** *need to be complete by the time of your submission for this grant – though it should be nearly complete. For the budget portion of your submission (Part ii), the amount should reflect the highest cost you anticipate. Once a program has been identified by your team, your district will submit a quote for review and approval. Then your budget document can be adjusted accordingly.*

1. We have applied for the HQIM grant (185) in which we applied for HQIM literacy curriculum and resources.  How is this grant different?  Should we apply for both?

*A: The High-Quality Instructional Materials (HQIM) Implementation Grant (FC185) is for districts that have already purchased HQIM tier 1 core materials in ELA, science, mathematics and/or digital literacy. FC185 supports districts with the implementation of this curriculum with comprehensive professional development, consultants, stipends, costs for printing and storage of materials as well as an equity-drive implementation plan. The closing date for FC185 grant was November 22, 2022, and recipients should be notified of their status soon. This grant opportunity, Accelerating Literacy Learning through High Quality Instructional Materials (FC730), provides funding to purchase up to 50% of ELA HQIM (curriculum) and initial professional development. It is for districts that have completed or nearly completed a review process to select new curriculum for purchase. If your district has in fact already purchased curriculum, the district would not be eligible for FC730, Accelerating Literacy Learning through HQIM. If your district has not purchased curriculum materials, this grant may be appropriate for your district/school.*

1. We are working with (a consultant) to select an evidence-based reading program this year. We've narrowed our choices with a districtwide Reading Task Force and will review two programs…Our activity timeline is such that we'll be in this review process and making a final decision by March 30. Would it be possible to still apply for this grant opportunity, as we have invested considerable research into numerous programs, used EdReports and CURATE as our guide, and participated in the DESE early literacy program for the past several years?

*A: Yes. This* *grant* *is for districts that have completed or nearly completed a review process to select new curriculum for purchase. If funded, once the district has selected curriculum and provided DESE with a corresponding quote for review and approval, the district may then make their purchase.*

1. Our District completed a review of ELA Materials for our Middle School over the last half of last year and the start of this year.  We selected … ELA Materials (both rated Green on Curate) and purchased the materials in November of this school year.  Our teachers have already attended 2 PD Sessions and are attending a third in January.  Are we eligible to submit an application for this grant for these materials and trainings under this grant?

*A: No. This grant is for districts that have completed or nearly completed a review process to select new curriculum but have not purchased materials. Districts/schools receiving this grant will be required to submit a quote to DESE for approval which identifies the specifics of their purchase for both professional development and materials. The district/school cannot move forward with a purchase until the quote has been reviewed and approved by DESE. Your district has already made purchases and therefore, unfortunately, it does not qualify for this grant. The grant does not provide reimbursement for materials already purchased.*

1. I was wondering if the grant cycle for the HQIM Grants was for piloting new programs for 23-24 and adopting new curriculum in 24-25? We are also awaiting to hear if we will be participating in the GLEAM Grant for which we have applied.  Are we eligible to apply for this as well without it negatively impacting our chance at being awarded the GLEAM Grant?

*A: Grant FC730 does not fund piloting new programs. At the time of this writing, recipients of the GLEAM grant have not been announced, so districts may decide to apply for both grants. Applying for both grants has no impact on eligibility or grant consideration. It should be noted that both grants have different requirements and timelines. More information can be found in the response to question 8.*

1. (Our District) applied for the GLEAM Grant to help fund our K-5 Literacy HQIM adoption and we are awaiting the results of our application. Would you recommend that we also apply for this grant, or would that be redundant? I did see that priority would be given to districts serving at or under 6,000 students, which is well below the number of students we serve.

A: *DESE is unable to offer a recommendation. At the time of this writing, recipients of the GLEAM grant have not been announced, so districts may decide to apply for both. It should be noted that the requirements, timelines and funding allocations of both grants are unique. FC730 requires all curriculum purchases made and delivered to the school/district by June 30, 2023. In contrast, GLEAM Track 1 recipients will start with the evaluating/selecting process for HQIM and won’t receive their funding until much later.*

1. Regarding the new 730 HQIM grant, does the 50% match have to come exclusively from local appropriation OR can it be a combination of local appropriation and state grants and/or federal grants?

*A: The district/school determines how to fund the other 50% of their curriculum costs. This funding could come from the sources identified in your email as well as other available sources. DESE is not a part of that decision-making process.*

1. We are currently working on writing the grant for Accelerating Literacy in our middle school.  We are considering applying for grades 6-8, but we also wonder if it would be possible to only apply for grade 6 for next year since we have already adopted a new program in K-5.  I know the grant says all schools with the same grade bands need to be consistent.  We only have one middle school but want to confirm whether we must apply for all grade levels in that school.

A: *No, not all grade levels at the one middle school need to be included in your application. The middle school serves grades 6-8, so the district may choose to apply for just grade 6 (all ELA classes in grade 6), or a combination such as grades 6 and 8 only (all ELA classes in those grade levels).*