

**Questions + Answers**

*Updated 11/30/22*

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**General**

1. *Will DESE post a list of schools that are eligible?*
   * Yes. The list of eligible districts is linked as a download in the [RFP](https://www.doe.mass.edu/grants/2023/509-510-2/)
2. *May I send the Part I Signature page* *as a PDF instead of a Word document?*
   * Yes. Please ensure that documents are submitted with a “wet” signature or image of a wet signature. We cannot take electronic signatures at this time, per the State Comptroller, DESE’s fiscal oversight agency.

**Eligibility**

1. *Is the eligibility for the GLEAM grant entirely based on percentage of students who are identified as economically disadvantaged (50% or greater in one school or 40% or greater in high school)?*
   * Yes, eligibility for GLEAM grants are based upon those criteria.
2. *Where do we find the website for eligibility?*
   * A list of eligible districts can be found within the RFP for both the [PreK-12](https://www.doe.mass.edu/grants/2023/509-510-2/) and [Preschool Only](https://www.doe.mass.edu/grants/2023/508/) GLEAM Program Grants.
3. *We are part of other DESE grants, like the Early Grades Literacy grant, for example. Can we still apply for GLEAM?*
   * So long as your district is eligible to apply for GLEAM, you may apply. Some of the activities for the other grants – Early Grades Literacy and MTSS Literacy Academies, for example – may relate to some of the GLEAM grant activities. When deciding on whether to apply, please keep in mind your staffing and capacity, as all grants will require substantial time and effort to effectively implement.

**Evaluation**

1. *For those that have competitive priorities, how much of an advantage do they have?*
   * Applicants for GLEAM program grants with competitive priority have a 3-6 point advantage
2. *Does a school that does not have a competitive priority have a chance of being awarded a grant?*
   * Yes, a district that does not meet one or more of the competitive priorities does have a chance of being awarded. Scoring is based on quality of proposals in addition to competitive priorities, which are additive.
3. *Will there be a rating rubric available for each component of the application?*

* No, a separate rubric will not be provided. The GLEAM narrative (Part III) is organized into five main sections. The information requested is directly stated and supported by the specific questions asked. The GLEAM program grants are intended to be responsive. Responses will be scored holistically relative to the unique and local strengths, needs, challenges, and opportunities of each district. The [GLEAM Video Series](https://www.doe.mass.edu/instruction/gleam/) breaks down each section of the application and provides considerations for answering each question.

**Budget**

1. *Why is the comments section in the workbook turning red?*
   * It’s a glitch that may be due to information being changed from the original. Sometimes the workbook does not recognize that previous information referenced in the comments section has been fully deleted. As long as the required budget sections are completed and the required information is included in the comments section, applicants may submit the budget, along with their proposal.
2. *Will a comprehensive budget be required prior to the creation of the full grant application?*

* Applicants must submit an estimated budget for all three fiscal years of the funding period as part of the application. Budget workbooks, technical assistance, and videos in the [GLEAM Video Series](https://www.doe.mass.edu/instruction/gleam/)  are available to support the development of estimated budgets. Grantees will need to submit formal revised and approved budgets to EdGrants when purchasing decisions are made throughout the grant period.

1. *Will the RFP outline guidelines for funding amounts to apply for?*

* Yes! The budget workbooks provide guidelines and caps for funding amounts.

1. *How can we budget for purchasing high quality core curricular materials if we have not yet selected which materials to purchase?*
   * The budgets developed for the application are estimated budgets. The budget workbooks provide estimates for all allowable costs. Districts will have to submit revised and approved budgets to EdGrants when purchasing decisions are made.

**PreK-12 Program Activities**

1. *We recently adopted our universal screener for early childhood grades and have found it to be very promising. I didn't see it on the list of* [*DESE-approved screeners*](https://www.doe.mass.edu/instruction/screening-assessments.html)*. Would this mean that we would have to adopt a new screener as part of the GLEAM Grant?*
   * Not necessarily. While GLEAM recipients aren’t required to use DESE-approved screeners, applicants need to demonstrate that screeners in use meet established [criteria of](https://www.doe.mass.edu/instruction/screening-assessments.html) effectiveness, as identified in the [Universal Screening Assessment Guidance](https://www.doe.mass.edu/instruction/screening-guide.docx) (*Word download*) and the [Massachusetts Dyslexia Guidelines](https://www.doe.mass.edu/sped/dyslexia-guidelines.pdf).
2. *We already have a valid and reliable early literacy screener in place, but are looking to change screeners to better reflect the needs of our students. Can we utilize GLEAM funds to purchase and implement a new screener in this case?*
   * If a valid and reliable early literacy screener is already in place, applicants should provide a substantive rationale in their proposal for why a new screener is essential by outlining specifically the key component(s) of evidence-based early literacy data for teaching and learning the current screener fails to adequately address.
3. *Will DESE send their own consultants?*
   * Yes. Each school participating in GLEAM receives onsite customized support from a qualified literacy consultant to support the grant activities.
4. *Is the GLEAM consultant provided by DESE or can GLEAM funds be used to support the salary of an “in-house” or district employee?*
   * Each GLEAM district will be matched with a DESE-approved literacy consultant to support the work of GLEAM. The GLEAM grant cannot provide funding for the salary of a district or school employee.
5. *Could we apply for the PreK-5 track and apply some funds for grades 6-8 as well, if awarded, or do all funds have to support the selected grade band?*

* Due to federal restrictions, all funding must support the selected grade band. If applying for the PreK-5 grade band, funding may only be used for grades PreK-5. Please watch the [GLEAM Grant Video Series](https://www.doe.mass.edu/instruction/gleam/) for details and clarification.

1. *We are currently going through the Evaluate and Select process and are participating in the current cohort of the DESE IMplement MA Network. We will be applying for Track 1 to help fund the purchase of a new HQIM for next school year. Will it be okay that we are already going through the Evaluate and Select process?*
   * Yes! Districts already going through the Evaluate and Select process for high quality core curricular materials may apply to Track 1 for financial support in purchasing the materials. Please note that GLEAM funds for the purchase of high quality core curricular materials will not be available until October 2023 at the earliest. As a reminder, GLEAM will fund up to 50% of the cost of high quality core curricular materials, with the district funding the remaining costs, and all purchases must be pre-approved by DESE. The comprehensive systems analysis for FY23 will focus on how best to support implementation of these new materials.
2. *Our district uses Wonders 2017, which does not meet expectations for K-2 and only partially meets for 3-5. Can we apply for Track 1?*
   * Yes. Track 1 is intended for districts that do not have high quality core curricular materials in place.
3. *Can MAAPs schools partner with a district in applying?*
   * Only public school districts and charters that meet GLEAM eligibility are eligible to apply. A group of eligible LEAs (public school districts and/or charter schools) may apply as a consortium convened by a lead fiscal agent, which may be a collaborative.
4. *What role does Appleseeds play in determining what track to apply to?*
   * Appleseeds is an open-resource high quality foundational skills program. It is not a comprehensive core curriculum. Decisions regarding what track to apply for must be based on what core curricular materials are in place for ELA/literacy.
5. *We have existing HQIM in place for grades 3-6 and plan to implement new HQIM in the fall for K-2. Can we apply for Track 2 for our K-4 schools?*
   * Yes, so long as the core curricular materials in place are high quality. Track 2 recipients that are newly implementing HQIM will, in addition to other Track 2 supports, receive support for the effective implementation of HQIM.
6. *We do not have high quality core curricular materials in K-2 but do have high quality core curricular materials in 3-5. Can we apply for both Track 1 – for K-2 and Track 2 – for 3-5?*
   * These decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis. Please email [GLEAM@mass.gov](mailto:GLEAM@mass.gov) with specific questions.
7. *Will the grant allow for purchasing assessments?*
   * The grant will fund the purchase of a high quality early literacy screening assessment for PreK-5 grantees, if one is not already in place. Additionally, Track 2 districts will be able to purchase needed assessments after completing and analyzing a comprehensive district-wide literacy needs assessment. All purchases must be pre-approved by DESE.
8. *Our middle schools (6-8) have HQIM in place and so would be Track 2, but we're interested in possibly applying for grades 9-12 and they do not have HQIM in place. Is it possible to apply for both tracks?*
   * These decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis. Please email [GLEAM@mass.gov](mailto:GLEAM@mass.gov) with specific questions.
9. *Can the GLEAM grant support the focus on and funding of ESL high quality curricular materials or does the GLEAM grant only focus on ELA?*
   * The GLEAM grant focuses on ELA/literacy and will support the evaluation, selection, and implementation of HQIM for ELA/literacy
10. *Most Tier 3 instructional materials are not rated on EdReports. Do you have criteria for intervention materials?*
    * Decisions regarding intervention materials will be made at the district-level after the completion and analysis of a comprehensive literacy needs assessment and comprehensive MTSS literacy action plan. All purchases must be pre-approved by DESE before they are made.
11. *Are curriculum materials for Foundational Skills also considered in addition to a HQIM Core Curriculum, or is the goal to adopt HQIM that has foundational skills embedded? Additionally, does the grant include ancillary curricular materials such as decodable readers?*
    * The goal for future Track 1 GLEAM districts (i.e., those without HQIM in place) is to adopt HQIM that has foundational skills included. If a district selects an HQIM that does not have foundational skills included, they will need to also select a foundational skills program, which the grant would fund up to 50% of the cost of. Decisions regarding decodable texts and ancillary materials are made on a case-by-case basis after districts evaluate and select high quality core curricular materials for ELA/literacy.

**GLEAM: Preschool Grants**

1. *When will the PreK information come out and will the process be similar?*

* Districts will have two options for PreK inclusion in GLEAM. First, districts can elect to include district-only PreK classrooms in their [GLEAM PreK-12 grant](https://www.doe.mass.edu/grants/2023/509-510-2/). Secondly, districts can elect to apply for the [GLEAM Preschool-only Grant.](https://www.doe.mass.edu/grants/2023/508/) Please visit the [GLEAM website](https://www.doe.mass.edu/instruction/gleam/) to access resources and technical assistance.

1. *Could you highlight the differences between the CPPI-EEC and the GLEAM-PreK?*
   * DESE and EEC work closely with one another throughout the GLEAM program grants. Much of the GLEAM Preschool Program is similar to [EEC’s Community Preschool Partnership Initiative (CPPI) grant](https://www.mass.gov/service-details/fy-2023-commonwealth-preschool-partnership-initiative-cppi-cohort-3-grant). Eligible districts participating in CPPI are welcome to apply for GLEAM Preschool to build upon and expand their CPPI work. Please see the [GLEAM Cohort 2 Preschool-Only Program Review video](https://youtu.be/pYJCme6z1Uw) for more information on the GLEAM Preschool Program.
2. *Can districts apply for both GLEAM PreK-12 and GLEAM Preschool?*

* Districts can apply for any grant for which they are eligible to apply.