

Striving Readers Grant Summary

Grant Overview: The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) has been awarded \$38 million through the United States Department of Education's Striving Readers Comprehensive Literacy Program. The program is expected to continue for five years.

Pennsylvania will hold competitions to award 95 percent of the funds as "sub grants" to school districts and early learning providers. Funds will support programs that advance literacy skills through:

- Professional development
- Screening and assessment
- Targeted interventions for students reading below grade level
- Research-based methods of improving classroom instruction and practice

Part of PDE's 5 percent set aside will be used in the first year of the grant to allow intermediate units to provide district training in the following areas:

- Universal Design for Learning (UDL) and digital technology
- Building Blocks for Elementary Literacy
- Successful Transitions Along the Literacy Continuum
- Reading Apprenticeship (RA)
- Implementing the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and Literacy Design Collaborative (LDC)
- Family literacy and parent engagement
- Supporting learners with special needs
- Navigating content with English language learners (ELL)
- Data analysis and decision-making

The district is considering an application to Striving Readers to fund the 100 Book Challenge. The 100 Book Challenge requires 30 minutes of home reading, along with 30 minutes of school reading, which is promoted through setting targets, as well as monitoring and rewarding performance. This ensures that students adopt the independent reading habits of a successful student. The Challenge aligns to reading and assessment tools, and is keyed to Common Core Standards. It also includes resources to help keep parents informed of student progress and involved in their child's success.

Specific guidelines, as well as the application, have not been released at this time. The expected release date for the grant is November 2011.

Amount of Award: Unknown at this time.

Due Date/Notification of Award: December 2011. Notification in February 2012.

Alternatives if not Awarded: None.

WCSD Resources Required:

Administrative Recommendation: That the administration prepares a submission to the Striving Readers Comprehensive Literacy Program to fund a program, such as the 100 Book Challenge, that will promote literacy and reading skills among the students of the Warren County School District.