



# Report to the Legislature on the Reading and Literacy Supplementary Authorization Incentive Grant Program

Commission on Teacher Credentialing

February 2025

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**Commission on Teacher Credentialing**

This list reflects the composition of the Commission at the time of adoption of the 2025 Annual Report on the Reading and Literacy Supplementary Authorization Incentive Grant Program in February 2025. Current membership of the Commission is available on the [Members of the Commission](#) webpage.

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## Executive Summary

This report provides an update on the 2022 Reading and Literacy Supplementary Authorization Incentive Grant Program and presents the 2025 Annual Report to the Legislature on the Reading and Literacy Supplementary Authorization Incentive Grant Program (Reading and Literacy Grant) as required by statute (181 SEC. 126, Stats 2022).

For the 2022-23 fiscal year, the legislature approved the sum of \$15 million for the 2022 Reading and Literacy Grant Program. This grant program provides one-time grant awards up to \$2,500 per participant, with a required 100 percent match of grant funding, to support credentialed teachers in adding a Reading and Literacy Added Authorization (RLAA), or a Reading and Literacy Leadership Specialist (RLLS) Credential. Grant funds may be used to cover tuition, fees, books, and/or release time. Priority is given to eligible grant applicants for teachers that provide instruction at an [eligible schoolsite](#). This report responds to the requirements specified in statute and provides an update to policymakers and others interested in the Reading and Literacy Supplementary Authorization Incentive Grant Program.

This report is organized with the following headings:

- 2025 Data Report on the 2022 Reading and Literacy Grant Program
- Program Funding
- Comments From the Field
- Summary and Conclusion

Overall updates are summarized below:

- The Reading and Literacy Grant has completed four rounds of funding, awarding a total of \$1,395,000 to five local educational agencies (LEAs) of the available \$15 million, with \$13,605,000 remaining.
- An additional Request for Applications (RFA) was released in December 2024, with awards for a fifth round announced in March 2025.
- As of July 2024, one LEA grantee has begun implementing its program, enrolling participants in all 22 projected slots for the 2023-24 year and expending 100 percent of its 2023-24 grant allocation. Remaining grantees are set to launch their programs in 2024-25.
- All LEA grantees have prioritized tuition costs, with only two LEAs requesting funds for additional expenses such as books or authorization filing fees.
- LEA grantees have emphasized the importance of cost-effective university partnerships, proactive participant support, and strong program advertising to ensure successful implementation.

As the program progresses, more comprehensive data on participant completion and program outcomes will become available as participants complete their coursework and earn their authorizations. The Commission will continue to offer grant competitions twice a year until the 2026-27 fiscal year or until \$15 million has been awarded.

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# Report to the Legislature on the 2022 Reading and Literacy Supplementary Authorization Incentive Grant Program February 2025

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## Introduction

Statute (181 SEC. 126, Stats 2022) requires the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (Commission) to annually report to the Legislature regarding the 2022 Reading and Literacy Supplementary Authorization Incentive (Reading and Literacy) Grant Program. The requirements of the report are specified in statute and must include, but not limited to, the following:

- The number of participating local education agencies.
- The number of grants issued.
- The number of reading and literacy supplementary authorizations issued.

## Background

For the 2022-23 fiscal year, the legislature approved the sum of \$15 million for the 2022 Reading and Literacy Program. This grant program provides one-time grant awards up to \$2,500 per participant, with a required 100 percent match of grant funding, to support credentialed teachers in adding a Reading and Literacy Added Authorization (RLAA), or a Reading and Literacy Leadership Specialist (RLLS) Credential. Any local education agencies (LEAs) that successfully apply to the competitive grant may use these funds to support tuition, fees, books, and/or release time. Priority is given to eligible grant applicants for teachers that provide instruction at an [eligible schoolsite](#). Eligible school sites are the highest 10 percent in the state with unduplicated pupils that are eligible for free and reduced-price meals, classified as English language learners, or that are foster youth. This funding is available for encumbrance until June 20, 2027.

The program has completed four rounds of Request for Applications (RFAs) with the most recent round awarded in December 2024. A fifth RFA was released December 2024 and is due February 28, 2025. As of July 2024, only one grantee has started to implement their program. The remaining grantees proposed implementation start dates in the 2024-25 year as part of their approved grant applications. This 2024 state report includes summary information regarding grant awards and initial program enrollment and program spending data. Participant and completer data will be available in future years as more grantees begin to implement their programs.

## 2025 Data Report on the 2022 Reading and Literacy Grant Program

The Commission continues to award grant funds through a competitive Request for Application (RFA) process. As of December 2024, five local education agencies (LEAs) have been awarded grants across four rounds of funding, totaling \$1,395,000. Following the initial award of \$455,000 to one LEA in Round One (July 2023) and \$187,500 to one LEA in Round Two

(December 2023), the Commission has awarded two additional rounds. Round Three, awarded in April 2024, provided \$750,000 to two LEAs. Round Four, awarded in December 2024, allocated \$2,500 to one LEAs. With \$13,605,000 in grant funds remaining, the Commission published the RFA for Round Six in December 2024, with awards to be announced March 21, 2025. Grant competitions will continue to be offered twice a year through the end of the 2025-26 fiscal year or until the full \$15 million has been awarded. Table 1 below shows the summary of grant awards and remaining grant funds, per Round.

**Table 1: Award Summary of Reading and Literacy Grants, per Round**

<b>Rounds</b>	<b>Award Date</b>	<b>Total Grantees</b>	<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>Remaining Funds</b>
One	July 14, 2023	1	\$455,000	\$14,545,000
Two	December 15, 2023	1	\$187,500	\$14,375,500
Three	April 5, 2024	2	\$750,000	\$13,607,500
Four	December 6, 2024	1	\$2,500	\$13,605,000
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>\$642,500</b>	<b>\$13,605,000</b>

Table 2 below provides a summary, per round, of each LEA grantee, the total number of participant slots awarded across the life of the grant through June 2027, and the total grant award. Note that over the life of the grant, LEAs may have requested a different number of participant slots per fiscal year provided the number does not exceed the total number of participants projected in the grant application.

**Table 2: Reading and Literacy Grant Recipients, Number of Total Participant Slots Awarded, and Total Grant Award, By Round**

<b>Local Education Agency (LEA)</b>	<b>Round</b>	<b># of Participant Slots Awarded Over Life of Grant</b>	<b>Total Grant Award</b>
William S. Hart Union High School District	1	182	\$455,000.00
Santa Barbara County Office of Education	2	75	\$187,500.00
Ontario-Montclair School District	3	150	\$375,000.00
Rialto Unified School District	3	150	\$375,000.00
Beardsley School District	4	1	\$2,500.00
<b>Totals</b>		<b>558</b>	<b>\$1,395,000.00</b>

Initial implementation data from the 2023-24 year shows that the Round One grantee has successfully enrolled participants in all 22 of its projected slots for the 2023-24 year. The Round One grantee’s program is designed to scale annually, with projected participant slots increasing from 22 in 2023-24, 35 in 2024-25, 50 in 2025-26, and 75 in 2026-27, totaling 182 slots over the grant period. Additional participant and completer data will be available in future years as more grantees begin to implement their programs.

Table 3 below provides a summary of each LEA grantee, the institution of higher education (IHE) collaborator, and the added authorization area(s) the grant program will support (Reading and Literacy Added Authorization (RLAA) and/or Reading and Literacy Leadership Specialist (RLLS) Credential). LEAs may add additional collaborators that offer Commission-approved programs. To support applicants and grantees, a list of [IHEs](#) that offer Commission-approved programs is published on the Reading and Literacy Grant webpage.

**Table 3: Reading and Literacy Grant Recipients, IHE Collaborator(s), and Added Authorization Type(s)**

Local Education Agency (LEA)	IHE Collaborator(s)	Added Authorization (RLAA, RLLS)
William S. Hart Union High School District	California State University, Bakersfield	RLAA
Santa Barbara County Office of Education	California State University, Bakersfield California State University, Fullerton University of California, San Diego	RLAA
Ontario-Montclair School District	University of Southern California	RLAA
Rialto Unified School District	University of Southern California	RLAA
Beardsley School District	University of California, San Diego	RLAA

### Program Funding

Programs may request grant funds from any of the following budget categories:

- Teacher preparation costs (tuition and/or IHE fees)
- Teacher preparation costs (books and/or supplies)
- Release time and/or substitute teacher costs
- Supplemental authorization filing fee

All grantees requested funds from the teacher preparation costs (tuition and/or IHE fees) budget category. Only two grantees requested funds in an additional budget category: either for the supplemental authorization filing fee or for books and/or supplies. The consistent focus on tuition support suggests that grantees anticipate this cost to be the most critical funding need for participating teachers.

Round One, in its first year of implementation, expended 100 percent of its 2023-24 grant allocation across its two approved budget categories: tuition and/or IHE fees and books and/or supplies. Round One’s 2023-24 funding was disbursed proportionally based on the 22 participant slots requested for 2023-24, with disbursements set to increase as requested participant slots grow to 35 in 2024-25, 50 in 2025-26, and 75 in 2026-27. Note that, during program implementation, grantees can move grant funds across approved budget categories to meet the needs of participants if the total of individual changes across all participants remains under 10% of the total grant budget; changes exceeding 10 percent require formal budget change requests.

**Table 4: Grant Award Expenditure, Round One**

<b>Budget Category</b>	<b>Annual Budget</b>	<b>Total Expended, 2023-24</b>
Teacher Prep Costs (tuition, and/or IHE fees)	\$44,000	\$33,000
Teacher Prep Costs (books and/or supplies)	\$11,000	\$22,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$55,000</b>	<b>\$55,000</b>

**Comments from the Field**

The following comments from the field were collected both formally and informally by the Commission’s grants team and may provide additional insight into the continued implementation of the Reading and Literacy Grant Program. Grantees shared several factors that they believe will contribute to successful program implementation. Key among these is identifying affordable IHE programs, with some grantees indicating that they have found cost-effective options that work well for their participants. Grantees have also emphasized the importance of establishing strong partnerships with their IHE collaborators.

Program implementation strategies that grantees have found promising include maintaining regular check-ins with participating teachers to monitor their progress and provide support as needed. Some grantees have also reported success in their initial program advertising efforts, noting significant interest from teachers within their LEA.

**Summary and Conclusion**

The 2025 annual state report reflects the second year of grant awards for the 2022 Reading and Literacy Supplementary Authorization Incentive (Reading and Literacy) Grant Program. Through four rounds of grant applications, the Commission has awarded \$1,395,000 of the available \$15 million, with \$13,605,000 remaining.

Implementation of the program is proceeding as planned, with the first grantee from Round One actively enrolling participants and utilizing grant funds for tuition and books/supplies. This grantee has filled all projected slots for the 2023-24 year, though program completion data is not yet available. The remaining grantees will begin their programs in 2024 according to the implementation timelines specified in their approved applications. As the program progresses, more comprehensive data on participant completion and program outcomes will become available as participants complete their coursework and earn their authorizations.

The Commission will continue to offer grant competitions twice a year until the 2026-27 fiscal year or until \$15 million has been awarded.