



Georgia Department of Education

Literacy for Learning, Living and Leading Grant L4GA: Competition

General Application Information



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"Educating Georgia's Future"

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General Information

The purpose for these funds is to allow systems/agencies/organizations to begin to develop and implement a literacy plan that would address the needs of all of children in a community, from birth through grade twelve.



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The *Literacy for Learning, Living and Leading in Georgia* (L4GA) funding will allow systems/agencies/organizations to build partnerships that engage communities and schools together to strengthen student learning, and establish and train teachers to implement new evidence-based practices with the ultimate goal that upon graduation, all students will be college and career ready. L4GA requires that applicants attend to the convergent power of improving school climate, community partnerships, instruction, and professional learning.

L4GA funds alone will not support a major overhaul of a school's literacy program. The projects that will be funded will support a school's intention to build on their current best practices, enhance instruction, solidify an intentional assessment protocol, and ensure that all teachers, leaders, and ancillary staff are confident in their approach to student learning.

Applications are to be submitted in Fluid Review by Thursday, February 1, 5PM.

Communication

If you would like to request membership on the L4GA listserv, please send a blank email to join-L4GA@list.doe.k12.ga.us.

L4GA Project Staff

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Allowable Expenses

L4GA funding should be used to fill gaps determined through the needs assessment process. Grant proposals should verify how all resources available within communities and schools have been leveraged and how they will be coordinated. Project funds must be used for activities that directly support the accomplishment of the project purpose, priorities, and expected outcomes. Expenditures must be consistent with applicable state and federal laws, regulations, and guidance.



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Project Purpose and Goals

Table 1

System-level Roles and Expectations

Who	What
Students (birth through grade 12)	<p>Will have access to high-quality materials in both print and digital form, fiction and non-fiction, that support the <i>Georgia Standards of Excellence</i> in all content areas.</p> <p>Will receive an evidence-based curriculum that will ensure adequate delivery of the Georgia Standards of Excellence.</p>
Students (Prekindergarten to grade 5)	<p>Will receive an evidence-based literacy block that includes all elements of a comprehensive literacy program (e.g., dialogic reading, peer-assisted learning, small group reading interventions, developing academic English, explicit comprehension strategy instruction, explicit vocabulary instruction) using a variety of engaging, high-quality texts.</p>
Students (grades 6-12)	<p>Will receive evidence-based instruction in Literacy (Reading, Writing, Listening, Speaking, Viewing) within content area courses using evidence-based delivery models as well as robust, engaging text.</p>
Teachers of literacy (birth through grade 12)	<p>Will engage learners by establishing a positive learning climate and using instructional approaches that are responsive to the community (e.g., linguistically, culturally, developmentally appropriate).</p> <p>Will implement ongoing formative and summative assessments and use data to inform instructional decisions and to evaluate the effectiveness of instruction.</p> <p>Will engage in high-quality professional learning to build their competence in evidence-based practices in literacy instruction, delivery of content, and peer support.</p>



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School leadership teams	<p>Will engage in high-quality professional learning to build their competence in evidence-based practices for literacy instruction and evaluation of instructional performance.</p> <p>Will demonstrate commitment to literacy by convening partners (teachers, community organizations, families, students) to focus on literacy-related services and activities together.</p>
School and District leaders	<p>Will use local and state data to create literacy plans for feeder patterns, focusing on growing potential for the local community to meet the needs of children from birth through grade 12.</p> <p>Will ensure that grants funded to L4GA partnerships are supported through proper and timely allocations and resources.</p> <p>Will ensure that the district goals align, and do not conflict, with those of the funded schools.</p> <p>Will facilitate partnerships with community organizations to provide social services for families and children attending local schools.</p>
Teacher educators/literacy researchers	<p>Will partner with B-12 teachers and leaders to lead professional learning about evidence-based practices for literacy instruction.</p> <p>Will engage in a networked improvement community called the "Literacy Think Tank" to improve their own competence in evidence-based practices in literacy instruction.</p> <p>Will engage with local community partners to support literacy-related activities and communications for families, youth, and children.</p>



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Community members	<p>Will provide support services for children, youth and families as determined by the local needs defined by the partnership.</p> <p>Will demonstrate commitment to literacy by providing and supporting literacy-related activities and communications for families, youth, and children.</p>
GaDOE	<p>Will align SEA initiatives and requirements as much as possible and support sub-grantees by provide guidance about alignments.</p> <p>Will deliver a communications system provides real-time access updated online and face to face training as well as assessment windows and new resources both internal and developed by outside partners.</p> <p>Will provide state data to support local efforts.</p> <p>Will convene and facilitate teacher educators and literacy researchers to improve the network's capacity and competence.</p> <p>Will facilitate a comprehensive approach to professional learning that promotes evidence-based practices and involves alignments face-to-face statewide convenings, online learning, and on-site interactions among sub-grantee partnerships via professional learning communities and coaching.</p>

District Performance Planning and Budget Timelines

Districts awarded a grant award will receive start-up funding. These funds will allow districts and schools to begin planning for their implementation. A budget amendment will be required in the Consolidated Application, and funding will be available until June 30, 2017. If a portion of the start-up funding is not spent, grantees can request those funds to be moved to year one or a later date.

Year-one funding will be requested for approval in June 2017. These funds will be available July 1, 2015 until June 30, 2016. In order to request funding, each school will be required to



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submit a detailed performance plan and budget timeline. These documents will be reviewed and approved by GaDOE staff and together with budget requests presented to the State Board of Education for approval.

Performance plans and budget time line documents will be provided to systems upon receiving funding.

Eligibility Criteria

All LEAs in Georgia are eligible to apply for L4GA funding.

Fidelity to the Application

Sub-grantees will not be permitted to change the project's overall scope originally outlined in the application, scored by reviewers during the application review process, and approved by the SBOE. This policy is designed to provide basic fairness to applicants for discretionary sub-grants. Amendments to the project specific to implementation and initiatives can be amended per approval from the program manager.

Scoring

In order for any application to be considered for funding it must meet a minimum quality score of **75** points. In the event that one or more school applications receive a score below 75 but the total system average score is above 75, the school application will require technical assistance to bring the schools sub-grant in line with the tenets of the grant or remove the school's application.

Competitive Priority

Please note that priority points will be added **only** after the application has met the minimum quality score of 75.

Table 2

Prioritization of Sub-grants Based on 2-Year Growth Rates and Poverty



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System ID	System Name	Against Odds Total	Competitive Priority Points	System ID	System Name	Against Odds Total	Competitive Priority Points
730	Talbot County	-62.31	20	653	Emanuel County	1.85	10
743	Twiggs County	-54.08	20	689	Liberty County	1.93	10
718	Quitman County	-53.30	20	710	Paulding County	2.23	10
694	Macon County	-52.76	20	621	Candler County	2.24	10
670	Hancock County	-50.17	20	617	Burke County	2.27	10
749	Warren County	-47.86	20	786	Social Circle City	2.64	10
776	Gainesville City	-44.43	20	792	Valdosta City	3.24	10
646	Dooly County	-41.70	20	663	Glynn County	3.37	10
662	Glascoc County	-36.47	19	728	Stewart County	3.57	10
731	Taliaferro County	-36.27	19	759	Worth County	3.89	9
605	Baldwin County	-35.09	18	680	Jeff Davis County	4.35	9
681	Jefferson County	-34.86	18	634	Coffee County	4.54	9
721	Richmond County	-33.78	18	623	Catoosa County	4.82	9
619	Calhoun County	-33.48	18	779	Jefferson City	4.94	9
661	Gilmer County	-31.56	18	789	Thomasville City	5.77	8
765	Calhoun City	-31.13	18	678	Jackson County	6.14	8
720	Randolph County	-30.63	18	716	Pulaski County	6.57	8
611	Bibb County	-30.45	18	793	Vidalia City	6.64	8
627	Chattooga County	-28.28	17	714	Pike County	6.83	8
745	Thomaston- Upson County	-28.23	17	737	Tift County	7.08	8
630	Clay County	-28.05	17	766	Carrollton City	7.14	7
724	Screven County	-27.96	17	649	Early County	7.20	7
772	Dalton City	-27.67	17	640	Crisp County	7.50	7
729	Sumter County	-27.25	17	757	Wilkes County	7.51	7



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785	Rome City	-26.58	17	639	Crawford County	7.55	7
712	Pickens County	-25.99	17	740	Treutlen County	7.68	7
631	Clayton County	-25.05	17	707	Newton County	8.53	7
699	Meriwether County	-23.74	16	687	Laurens County	8.65	7
632	Clinch County	-23.65	16	683	Johnson County	9.18	6
671	Haralson County	-22.61	16	756	Wilcox County	9.20	6
715	Polk County	-22.45	16	665	Grady County	9.35	6
679	Jasper County	-22.29	16	738	Toombs County	9.37	6
700	Miller County	-22.15	16	698	McIntosh County	9.46	6
654	Evans County	-21.98	16	606	Banks County	9.52	6
726	Spalding County	-21.62	16	616	Bulloch County	9.89	6
784	Pelham City	-21.57	16	781	Marietta City	10.56	6
657	Floyd County	-20.70	16	752	Webster County	10.69	6
711	Peach County	-20.61	16	622	Carroll County	10.87	6
644	DeKalb County	-19.80	16	607	Barrow County	11.31	6
709	Oglethorpe County	-18.93	16	620	Camden County	11.87	6
741	Troup County	-18.62	16	645	Dodge County	11.97	6
732	Tattnall County	-17.43	16	727	Stephens County	12.45	6
614	Brooks County	-17.39	16	751	Wayne County	12.70	6
758	Wilkinson County	-17.15	16	696	Marion County	13.37	6
669	Hall County	-16.84	16	747	Walton County	13.50	5
755	Whitfield County	-16.39	15	633	Cobb County	14.27	5
733	Taylor County	-16.38	15	722	Rockdale County	14.45	5
647	Dougherty County	-16.26	15	717	Putnam County	14.59	5
625	Chatham County	-15.50	15	668	Habersham County	14.90	5
635	Colquitt County	-15.38	15	667	Gwinnett County	15.94	5
767	Cartersville City	-15.06	15	660	Fulton County	16.18	5
624	Charlton County	-14.98	15	676	Houston County	18.94	4
652	Elbert County	-14.17	15	626	Chattahoochee County	19.85	4



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739	Towns County	-13.58	15	636	Columbia County	20.24	4
603	Bacon County	-13.23	14	666	Greene County	20.81	4
742	Turner County	-13.18	14	763	Bremen City	21.52	4
673	Hart County	-13.04	14	719	Rabun County	21.75	4
618	Butts County	-12.96	14	672	Harris County	21.91	4
701	Mitchell County	-11.98	14	674	Heard County	22.01	4
682	Jenkins County	-11.64	14	686	Lanier County	22.68	4
685	Lamar County	-10.30	13	690	Lincoln County	23.72	4
675	Henry County	-10.06	13	688	Lee County	24.38	3
601	Appling County	-9.74	13	656	Fayette County	24.55	3
734	Telfair County	-9.12	13	744	Union County	25.37	3
736	Thomas County	-8.53	13	609	Ben Hill County	25.80	3
705	Murray County	-8.25	13	791	Trion City	26.16	3
746	Walker County	-7.97	13	643	Decatur County	26.21	3
750	Washington County	-7.92	13	651	Effingham County	26.68	3
684	Jones County	-7.29	12	691	Long County	26.78	3
638	Coweta County	-7.02	12	702	Monroe County	29.24	3
706	Muscogee County	-6.78	12	695	Madison County	30.04	3
637	Cook County	-6.29	12	704	Morgan County	30.25	3
703	Montgomery County	-6.27	12	692	Lowndes County	34.10	3
642	Dawson County	-5.46	12	693	Lumpkin County	34.73	3
659	Franklin County	-5.23	12	769	Chickamauga City	35.05	3
735	Terrell County	-4.20	11	613	Brantley County	36.00	3
774	Dublin City	-3.67	11	713	Pierce County	39.42	2
615	Bryan County	-2.92	11	725	Seminole County	40.26	2
648	Douglas County	-2.59	11	723	Schley County	40.73	2
664	Gordon County	-2.24	11	612	Bleckley County	42.66	2
604	Baker County	-2.07	11	602	Atkinson County	43.24	2
650	Echols County	-1.08	11	753	Wheeler County	43.54	2
628	Cherokee County	-0.98	11	771	Commerce City	47.33	1



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677	Irwin County	-0.61	11	764	Buford City	50.31	1
754	White County	-0.40	11	658	Forsyth County	53.35	1
	McDuffie						
697	County	-0.39	11	773	Decatur City	56.57	1
629	Clarke County	-0.22	11	748	Ware County	57.34	1
608	Bartow County	-0.11	11	610	Berrien County	58.49	1
655	Fannin County	-0.01	11	708	Oconee County	59.45	1
641	Dade County	0.99	11				

Please note that grant awards will be made subject to approval by the Georgia State Board of Education. Awards will be determined based on rank (highest score first) and available funding. Therefore, it should be noted that a score of 75 or higher does not guarantee funding. After the selection process, applicants who were not awarded funding will receive copies of the readers' comments.

Grant Period

The performance period for the L4GA grant is three years.

A grant award is made available for an approved performance period of three years. Continuation funds beyond year one are contingent upon the evidence and progress as documented in the annual evaluation report, increased student achievement as documented in the required common data elements, and performance based on the approved plan and budget timeline. Please note that a sub-grantee approved by the State Board of Education may not charge expenses to its L4GA grant before the beginning of the grant period, which is the day of State Board approval. The awardee will receive 20% start-up funding for initial grant implementation. After performance plans and budget timelines are approved for year one, the State Board will award year one funding. Each year, beyond year one, a new performance plan and budget timeline will be submitted with a request for continued funding by the State Board of Education.

Awards

Grant awards will be made to districts with the highest composite score. Because grants must be sizable in order to accomplish the goals of the literacy plan, per pupil allocations will be similar to grant awards of the past three cohorts. Once all scores are tallied, per pupil allocations will be determined based on October 2017 FTE reports.



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Award Amounts

The GADOE will award sub-grants that will be significant in size in order to achieve the goals set forth in the project.

Funding for the L4GA grant to LEAs and nonprofit early learning organizations and/or agencies will be based on a per pupil allocation. Funding will be provided for all classrooms including special education, CTAE, Title I and ELL. Funding will be awarded according to pupil full-time equivalent (FTE) count for school-aged children. For funding purposes, the October 2017 FTE report will be used for this grant application.

Sustainability

Sustainability planning is a requirement of the L4GA project. Sustainability planning should be embedded throughout the application.

Community partners and organizations can be a critical link to sustaining L4GA projects beyond the grant period. Funded applicants must bring together community organizations, P-20 partners, and RESAs with local schools and centers to determine how to leverage resources within the community.

Fiscal Requirements

Georgia Online Reporting System (GAORS), the Consolidated Application Portal (CONAPP) and the Invoice Application are the required reporting and accounting systems designated by GaDOE to help ensure uniform, standard and accurate reporting of fiscal data on the use of funds.

Any person, agency, etc., debarred from receiving Federal funds is not eligible to apply for a L4GA project grant.

Responsibilities of a Fiscal Agent

The following are some of the expectations, roles, and responsibilities of a fiscal agent:

1. As the official grant recipient, all awards must be adopted by the local Board of Education (LEAs) or local Board of Directors (non-LEAs).
2. Administer the grant from award to closeout in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations



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3. Serve as the organizational representative and point of contact for all business management aspects of the award agreement
4. Apply appropriate management controls using management systems, checklists, and records
 - i. Internal Controls:
 - a. Safeguard assets; ensure reliability of accounting data and grant terms and conditions
 - ii. Operating Controls:
 - a. Fiduciary Procedural Manuals; Budgetary Control System
 - iii. Accounting Controls:
 - a. Implement controls to ensure reliability of recorded financial data
 - b. Maintain appropriate level of transaction review and authorization
 - c. Develop and implement proper procurement procedures and cash management procedures that are well defined
 - d. Develop procedures that facilitate timely review and audit of financial activity
 - iv. Compliance Controls:
 - a. Consider mechanisms to monitor and review compliance with grant terms (e.g. ensure grant funds are disbursed only to eligible recipients)
 - b. Ensure that **all** expenditures/disbursements are consistent with the objectives of the grant award and comply with applicable Federal, state and local laws and regulations governing the project and use of funds (e.g. OMB Circulars A-87, A-21 and A-122 Cost Principles, Regulatory and Non-Regulatory Guidance, EDGAR, and Code of Federal Regulations)
 - v. Document Control System:
 - a. Develop written documentation of adequate internal operating and accounting controls that demonstrate evidence of controls related to grant compliance.
5. Assemble appropriate staff resources and communicate all compliance requirements and resources of the grant.
6. Keep abreast of changes in policies, procedures or requirements and continue to advise project staff of grant requirements.
7. Request any further "prior approvals" when identified.
8. Prepare necessary reports:
 - i. Source Documentation



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- a. Appropriately support transactions entered into the grantee's system
 - b. Documentation tracks each grant transaction and support the validity of financial data reported
 - c. Maintain separate/clean funding lines for L4GA funds
 - ii. Audit Trail
 - a. The lowest level of detail the system should provide is documentation that supports all transactions (e.g. invoices, contracts, purchase orders)
 - b. The overall recordkeeping system should be able to trace financial statement balances through the grantee's general ledger, cash books and other journals
 - c. Amounts claimed on financial statements and reports accurately reflect the accounting books and records from which they were prepared
- 9. Make the most of site visits by GaDOE to enhance project, show organizational strength and demonstrate commitment to the project
 - 10. Keep GaDOE and the public aware and informed about grant project progress
 - 11. Evaluate the extent to which measurable project objectives are being met
 - 12. Liquidate all obligations incurred under the award within the set deadline
 - 13. Ensure and oversee the performance of final audits and resolution of findings
 - 14. Establish adequate system for records retention
 - 15. Completion Reports are due no later than 30 days after the end of each fiscal year

Project Reports and Evaluation

Grantees will be required to prepare and submit an end of year evaluation report no later than June 30th of each year.

Details of the Application

While we have provided applicants with a hard copy of the grant application, the final submitted application will be uploaded into our online grant management system, Fluid Review. ***All applications are to be submitted in Fluid Review by February 1, 2018 at 5PM.*** As detailed in the grant application, applicants are required to stay within a prescribed word count for each section. These word counts were derived by reviewing Cohort One, Cohort Two and Cohort Three funded applications to derive a general length for each section. Cohort Four applicants are expected to stay within these word counts as they prepare their grant applications.



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Fluid Review

Fluid Review is an online data management system that will support all of grant development and management activities in one location. It establishes work flow so that applicants can upload and manage their grant development. will also manage the grant review from this site as well.

GaDOE will host training on how to utilize the system at a future date.

Application Review and Selection Process

Phase 1 – Reader Review and Scoring

Impartial readers will evaluate and score each application based on the quality of the proposed activities and the capability of the applicant to implement the proposed project. These readers are comprised of experienced grant readers with expertise in early learning, elementary literacy, and secondary literacy. These readers will also have expertise in literacy assessment and the Georgia Standards of Excellence.

Phase 2 – Federal Compliance Review and Analysis of Applications

GaDOE staff will review all applications that have a quality score greater than or equal to 75. Applications with scores of at least 75 and that qualify for competitive priority will receive an additional five points in this phase. Applications will be read by GaDOE staff in order determine if the grant meets L4GA project requirements and adheres to state, Federal, and local laws. Applications that do not meet the established criteria will not proceed to Phase 4.

****Please note all readers' scores, GaDOE decisions, and State Board of Education (SBOE) decisions are final. These decisions may not be appealed.**

