**FY20 Striving Readers Comprehensive Literacy Supplemental FAQ**

Q. In RFP, it mentions eligibility for districts.  In the Birth-Early Childhood, K Readiness score has to be lower than the state average.  Is this a domain specific score or the overall score (combining all domains)?

A. Use the overall Brigance K score.

Q. What is the deadline to spend these funds?

A. September 30, 2020

Q. For the middle/high grade span, is the data qualification based on subgroups like it says for elementary or is it just on the overall score?

A. You can use subgroup scores. However, your plan should add support to the group that is scoring lower than the state average.

For example, you cannot reference a low score for a subgroup and then write a plan to spend the money on a different group.

Q. For elementary, does a specific gap group district score have to be lower than the ***overall*** state score or the state score for the same gap group?

A. The state score for the same gap group.

Q. Can we apply for two grants at the same level?  In other words, can we apply for two elementary grants that target a different group/school?

A. No, you can only submit one application for each level.

Q. At the middle and high school level, the requirements of an "eligible district are those with a K-PREP Reading score, K-PREP Writing score or an ACT Grade 11 Kentucky Benchmark score lower than the state average."  Do we just look at the overall score or can we look at subgroups?

A. You may look at subgroups. However, your plan must support the subgroup with the score that is lower than the state average.

Q. What are the beginning and ending dates for the grant?  We will need this to develop our timeline.

A. Money will be available in March 2020 and must be spent by September 30, 2020. However, your plan can continue beyond September 30, 2020. For example, you can pay for professional development or get materials needed for implementation of your plan and then actually implement the plan in 2020/2021.

Q. The RFP states that an allowable use of funds is *in-state literacy conference registration.*  What are some conferences that are held during the time period of the grant?

A. KDE will not give a list of available conferences. Districts planning to attend a conference must locate a conference that supports the district’s area of need. No out of state conferences will be allowed.

Q. The RFP states that an unallowable use of funds is food.  Does this include the per diem for professional learning travel?

A. No, a per diem that follows current district travel guidelines is an allowable expense. The food mentioned is meals. You cannot use grant money to provide meals. For example, you cannot feed teachers at a professional learning or feed families that come for a family literacy night.

Q. With the Early Childhood or Elementary grant, can we plan for Kagan training?

A. No, most Kagan Cooperative trainings do not align closely enough to the intent of the SRCL grant. Kagan does have specific literacy trainings that focus more closely on reading and writing. Some of these are Elementary Literacy, Secondary Language Arts, Reading Between the Lines and Mighty Vocabulary. At this time none of those trainings are offered in KY between March and September 30, 2020. No out of state travel will be allowed.

Q. What is the deadline for spending these funds?

A. September 30, 2020

Q. Is SBDM approval required? Our district definitely wants them to be included, but the turnaround time for this grant is short and not sure they will be meeting right after the holidays.

A. SBDM most approve the plan. However, if there is not time before the grant submission date to have SBDM sign you may go ahead and apply by explaining the situation and the date you plan to have your SBDM sign. You will need to provide the SBDM signature page before any funds are awarded if your district is selected.

Q. I know that a district can submit an application for all three levels.  Can a district submit multiple applications for one level?  For example, we have two elementary schools in our feeder pattern.  Can we submit an application for each of them?

A. No, a district can only submit one application for each level.

Q. Can an application be submitted for a Jr. High and a High School or is that combined?  The RFA has MS/HS listed together.

A. Middle/High school is together. A Jr. High falls under this category. A district would only be allowed to apply for one award in this category.

Q. Is the budget narrative counted in the 5 pages or is it separate?

A. No, the budget narrative is separate and not part of the 5-page limit.

Q. We are thinking about applying for this grant for some training for our teachers on specific scaffolding strategies for helping struggling readers at the high school (because we are currently in ATSI status), and this is an area of need we have identified.  We just don't want to limit it to just our English teachers, but the webinar yesterday made it sound like it needed to be restricted to just reading classes?  Please let us know if it should be limited to English teachers, or if we may include other teachers.

A. The SRCL Supplemental Award is not limited to only reading classes. However, the data required to qualify is reading and writing data. Although the plan can address any content, it does need to help students read and write in the content area.

Q. Our MS/HS state assessment needs are different.  Middle School focus is writing -High school focus is reading.  Does our plan need to use the same focus area (middle school change focus to reading to match high school)?  Or, can middle school and high school submit separate plans with their own focus area in the same application?

A. Your district can propose a plan that addresses multiple areas of need in a level. The award is $12,000.00 per level and would need to be split if multiple areas are listed in the plan.

Q. Does the project proposed in the grant application have to include both reading and writing? Writing is an area of continued focus for our district and we would like to do some work vertically aligning our writing curriculum.

A. The plan must focus on an area of need. It can be reading and writing, just reading or just writing.

Q. We would only qualify for a middle school supplemental grant because our Kindergarten Brigance, elementary, and high school scores are above state averages.  Middle School writing is below.  Can we apply for the middle school and use the project above involving K-12 language arts teachers?  We need to do this work when school is out.  We vertically aligned last summer but teachers focused more specifically on reading standards and the writing needs to be more specific so that it may be monitored.  These teachers will have their PD hours in and we would like to pay them to work a couple of days learning, analyzing writing standards and then mapping writing out from Kindergarten to 12th grade. We were not sure if the middle school money could be spent on elementary and high school teachers.

A. If the area of need is middle school writing your plan will explain how you will strengthen middle school writing. If vertical alignment is needed you can use money to accomplish this work. Vertical alignment requires all grades and money could be spent for this.

Q. I have a question on the qualifications for secondary grants. My high school is below the state score on special education writing from 11th grade K-PREP. My middle school is above the state on special ed writing from 8th grade K-PREP. Can we submit a grant application to include both the middle school and high school with a focus on special education writing given that the middle school feeds into the high school?

A. Yes you can include the middle school in your plan, since the middle school feeds into the high school. Be sure to explain in your application why the middle school needs to be part of the plan.

Q. On the K-PREP data, I have a school that is lower than the state score if we look at K-PREP reading %PD, but ahead of the state if we look at the index (rate). Does this school qualify to apply for a SRCL supplemental grant?

A. To qualify for this award you can use the percentage of PD that is below the state average. The index rate was only reported by level and not grade. Your plan could focus on any grade or group of students. You will need to use the scores related to the group your plan addresses.

Q. If I'm understanding correctly, we can apply for the following:

$12,000 for early childhood (preschool)

$12,000 for elementary (K-5)

$12,000 for secondary (6-12)

A. Yes, this is correct. A district can apply for one level, two levels or all three levels. A district can only apply once for each level.

Q. Elementary/EC - if they are writing their apps around the same content and want to participate in the same professional learning initiative, can they split the cost between the two apps?

A. Yes

Q. Secondary - they want to focus on their EL population, but some of the data is suppressed across EL and Hispanic, due to being able to tell which students were in the group. Can they still use that group or do you have any advice on how to move forward with that?

A. Although data on specific small groups is not made public, the district has the scores of the individual students. You may use that data to qualify for the grant if the average scores are lower than the state average in your EL population.