

ISBE: Elevating Educators Bilingual Education Grant
Frequently Asked Questions
Last Updated January 2023

What specifically can this grant money be used for?

These funds should be used to assist existing staff (current PEL holders) in completing necessary coursework to obtain an endorsement in either ESL or Bilingual Education, or to assist ELS-TBE holders with completing a program to earn their PEL. Funding will be available for costs incurred between July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2024.

Do educators need to be full-time educators to be eligible for the grant?

The educator requirements are 1) they must hold an issued PEL or ELS-TBE and 2) they must be employed within your school district. They do not have to be working in a full-time capacity (for example, an educator with an existing PEL who is currently working part-time or is working as a sub would qualify).

How do I know what other schools are eligible to partner with?

Recipients have the option of participating as part of a group/consortia of entities, which will reduce their administrative burden. All ROEs have been notified of the grant recipients (school districts) within their region. Recipients can contact their ROE representative for the list of eligible recipients within their region. Should you choose to apply as a group, there must be one grant application for the group and there should only be one designated fiscal agent for the group. Please email elevatingLEducators@isbe.net if you are interested in applying as a consortia.

Are there specific institutions or universities that must be used?

No, there are no restrictions on which institution or university can be used for this coursework.

Is there a certain amount of money that can be given to any one candidate? Or a certain number of candidates we need to support with this money?

No, there is no limitation on the amount of funding from your grant allocation that can be spent on a single candidate. Distribution of funds is up to the discretion of the district. However, you will need to outline within the grant application exactly how you will be utilizing the funds, so should you plan to cover expenses for multiple educators, you will need to outline that in the grant application.

Are we able to work directly with a university or is it intended to be tuition reimbursement for an individual?

Your district has the discretion to decide whether to issue payment directly to a university/institution or whether to reimburse the educator for expenses. This grant will reimburse expenditures used for coursework towards obtaining the ESL or bilingual endorsement on the PEL or obtaining the PEL and the expense must meet the function and object codes (a list of these codes can be found within the grant application).

What will the application process look like for the teacher candidates? What documentation would they need to provide?

This grant does not require an application from the educator. As a district, you are able to determine which educators receive the funding and may decide to add an application process if you see fit. As part of the grant application, you will be required to provide information about the candidates who will receive the funding and their progress toward the endorsement or license up to this point.

Can the district require a commitment to the district for a certain number of years if they participate in this program?

While ISBE does not set any stipulation like this, districts can determine specific educator requirements for the use of these funds.