



Funding Opportunity Announcement

Alabama Pre-K – 3rd Grade Integrated Approach to Early Learning

Competitive Grant Process: Applications due December 19, 2025



The Alabama Department of Early Childhood Education is accepting applications for the 2026-2027 school year for grants that support the delivery of a coordinated and comprehensive high-quality early childhood continuum.

Background

A high-quality early childhood education provides the foundation for student success in school. Having a seamless learning continuum from Pre-K to 3rd grade will align and integrate a comprehensive educational approach to student learning during the years when children have the greatest growth potential.

Educators will be able to apply their knowledge of child development, subject matter content and pedagogical approaches to align educational experiences along the Pre-K-3rd grade continuum. Further, educators will be able to ensure that children are entering classrooms that promote on-going educational progress by building on what was taught during the previous year. This alignment is particularly critical given the new knowledge teachers possess relating to the developmental sequences of early learning. Knowing this, educators can intentionally integrate the developmental domains into the teaching and learning subject matter for young children.

Research findings from multi-year early education interventions and the combined components of the Pre-K-3rd approach can make a positive contribution to young children's learning by providing the pathways through which more children will achieve success by the end of third grade.

The Alabama Pre-K-3rd Grade Integrated Approach to Early Learning will build upon student success and narrow the achievement gap by expanding access to Alabama's high-quality Pre-K model. The Pre-K-3rd approach will incorporate the most successful parts of K-3rd initiatives in order to establish a strong foundation of early learning experiences that promote student achievement and success. The Alabama Department of Early Childhood Education (ADECE) and the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) collaborative partnership will develop and implement a strong teaching and learning continuum unique to the needs and expectations of Alabama's children and families.

This document serves as an invitation to submit a grant proposal that encompasses three major components of the Pre-K - 3rd Grade Integrated Approach to Early Learning: leadership, assessment and instructional practice in early childhood education. The Pre-K-3rd continuum surpasses the boundaries of preschool into the first few years of elementary school to produce a seamless learning experience for children from age four through grade three. The basic framework and three focus areas of the continuum are based on:

1. Leadership

- a. Leaders embrace the Pre-K-3rd early learning continuum
- b. Leaders ensure developmentally appropriate practices
- c. Leaders provide personalized, blended learning environments
- d. Leaders use measures to guide growth in student learning
- e. Leaders build professional capacity across the early learning community
- f. Leaders make schools a hub for Pre-K-3rd learning for families and communities

2. Instruction

- a. Align and coordinate standards, instructional practices, assessment, environments and professional development creating an incremental alignment plan for Pre-K-3rd
- b. Use consistent, yet developmentally appropriate, instructional approaches across grades
- c. Require horizontal and vertical team meetings
- d. Use instructional coaches with early childhood learning experiences and credentials
- e. Communicate proactively and involve parents, families and the community

3. Assessment

- a. Ongoing, observation, standards based
- b. Include all domains of development and learning: social-emotional, language, physical, cognitive, literacy, mathematics, social studies, science and technology and the arts

Research has shown that the key elements of effective Pre-K-3rd programs include:

- High-quality, voluntary Pre-K for all children
- Full-day kindergarten
- Qualified teachers who have a bachelor's degree and specialized training in the methods in which young children learn
- Opportunities for teachers to share data, participate in joint planning session on a regular basis as well as collaborative professional development meeting across grade levels
- Strong leadership committed to providing children with seamless high quality educational experiences
- A high quality, developmentally-appropriate curriculum that aligns state standards from Pre-K through third grade and supports the development of the whole child

Follow this link for more detailed information:

[Leading Learning Communities: A Principal's Guide to Early Learning and the Early Grades](#)

Grant Application

This grant will provide \$20,000 for each awarded classroom. LEAs are encouraged to write for Pre-K to K, Pre-K to 1, Pre-K to 2, or Pre-K to 3, depending on the readiness of the school. The funding for this grant is only guaranteed for one year, with programs continuing the process during the next school year.

The following application recommendations are appropriate in relation to this grant:

- It is highly recommended that programs apply who already have a First Class Pre-K classroom in place in order to provide a seamless transition from First Class Pre-K to kindergarten.
- It is highly recommended that those programs that already have First Class Pre-K and kindergarten classrooms using Teaching Strategies Gold Assessment, write for a Pre-K to 1st grade continuum.
- It is highly recommended that those programs that do not have a kindergarten classroom involved in using Teaching Strategies GOLD Assessment, write for a Pre-K to K continuum.

The applicant must answer the following questions in the Grant software Foundant (please see sample application attached):

- A. **Project Narrative:** How will your grant proposal encompass all three of the focus areas for the Alabama PreK-3rd Grade Integrated Approach to Early Learning: leadership, instruction and assessment?

- B. **Long Term Goals:** Creating a Pre-K-3rd continuum requires a strong commitment by principals and all educators to work together to ensure that all the needs of children are met. What are your long-term goals for this continuum and how does it fit within your system's goals? Provide a work plan timeline that extends across the school year.
- C. **Budget Narrative:** Provide a budget and a budget narrative that specifically describe how each item will support the achievement of the work plan (Sample budget is attached). How will you sustain this project when funding is no longer available?

Grantees can fill out the application for the P3 Competitive Grant Process by clicking on the link below. If needed, the Access Code is: P32026 *(Be sure and save this link in a secure place for future use.)*

[Alabama Pre-K – 3rd Grade Integrated Approach to Early Learning Competitive Grant Application](#)

Tentative Grant Timeline:

- **December 19, 2025** - Application Deadline
- **January 2026** - Awards Announced/MOUs signed
- **February 2026** - Principals must make Application to the NAESP Pre-K – 3 Leadership Academy *(if they have not previously attended)*
- **March 2026** - New Grantee Webinar
- **TBA** - New Teacher Grantees Required Formative Assessment Professional Development
 - *Leadership from each grantee will want to attend this training as well*



Funding Opportunity Announcement
Alabama Pre-K – 3rd Grade Integrated Approach to Early Learning
Competitive Grant Process: Applications due December 19, 2025



Sample Budget Proposal

Pre-K-3rd Grade Approach to Early Learning Competitive Grant 2026-2027

TS GOLD Training and ongoing ADECE Professional Development <i>o including IRR certification</i>	\$200.00
Assessment Entry <i>o 3 Full days or 6 half days for data entry/collaboration @ \$120.00 per day</i>	\$360.00
Apple iPad mini & case (for data collection & entry)	\$600.00
PD Travel - miles x .625 (State rate)	\$300.00
PD Hotel Expense X 2 Nights at \$150	<u>\$300.00</u>
Total PD Expense per Teacher	\$3,350.00
Classroom Furnishings (Classroom setup for age appropriate furniture, shelves, storage materials, easel, rug, etc.)	\$7500
Materials and supplies (Materials and supplies to include, but not limited to consumable supplies, literature, blocks (variety), art supplies, free choice materials, texture materials, additional supplies to foster a blended learning environment, etc.)	\$ 9150
TOTAL Classroom Resources	\$16650
Total Classroom/Teacher Grant Award	\$20,000.00
<i>Sustainability Grant Applications provide funds of \$2,000 to existing P-3 classrooms for GOLD trainings, ADECE Professional Development, and refurbishing consumable items. *Sustainability funds are not a guarantee from year to year. It is based on legislative funding.</i>	