

Issue Date: April 22, 2024

Summary of Competitive ARP-ESSER Grant

Improving Student Academic Outcomes in Computer Science, English Language Arts and Literacy, and Mathematics

Introduction

The Vermont Agency of Education (AOE) launched a [competitive grant](#) in January 2024, with American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Relief (ARP ESSER) state set-aside funding, to improve student learning in computer science, English language arts (ELA) and literacy, and mathematics. Consistent with the [State's Education Recovery Plan](#) and primary recovery strategies and goals, this funding opportunity supports Local Education Authorities (LEAs) in improving academic outcomes by focusing both on addressing the specific harms caused by the COVID-19 emergency and improving the core functions of our schools.

Supervisory unions/districts (SU/SDs) were invited to submit applications to support improving academic outcomes in one or more of the content areas by proposing investment requests in the following categories aligned with Vermont's [Educational Quality Standards](#) (EQS) and [Act 173 policy levers](#):

1. Developing, purchasing, or refining high-quality instructional materials and/or coordinated curricula (EQS Curriculum Content 2120.5, EQS Coordinated Curriculum 2120.6, EQS Access to Instructional Materials 2122.2);
2. Funding needs-based professional learning and/or coaching to support training and implementation of purchased instructional materials, coordinated curricula, evidence-based instructional practices, and content expertise as aligned with priorities of the SU/SD as demonstrated in the Continuous Improvement Plan or other strategic plan for improving universal instruction (EQS Instructional Practice 2120.2; EQS Staff 2121.2; EQS NBPL 2121.3); and
3. Systems-level coaching to support and sustain the implementation of coordinated curriculum, evidence-based instruction, or local comprehensive assessment systems (LCAS). This might include, but not be limited to professional learning and coaching to support the development or refinement of local literacy plans, coordinated curriculum, and/or assessment programs aligned to the strategic priorities in the above content areas of SU/SD (EQS NBPL 2121.3; EQS System of Support 2121.5 and 2123.2, EQS Coordinated Curriculum 2120.6, State and EQS LCAS 2123.2).



Competition Overview

Twenty-seven (fifty-one percent) supervisory unions/districts (SU/SDs) submitted application requests totaling \$4,166,270, exceeding the initial amount of funds allocated for this grant by close to \$3,000,000. The number of applications submitted for this competition is indicative of Vermont public schools' ongoing commitment to investing in high-quality instructional materials and practices, professional learning, and system-level coaching to improve student learning. Eighty-one percent of the applications proposed to support ELA and literacy teaching and learning, sixty-three percent to support Mathematics teaching and learning, and seven percent to support teaching and learning in computer science.

Based on the significant demand, scope, and quality of the applications, the Student Pathways Division delayed the notification process to identify an additional one-million dollars in funding to support eleven additional successful applications.

Overall, 23 SU/SDs, eighty-five percent of the grant applications and forty-three percent of Vermont SU/SDs, were awarded a total of \$2,268,433. All applications were independently scored by a panel of content area experts using the criteria established in the [application guide](#). Agency of Education staff used three measures of central tendency to determine final scores and finalize any conditions related to funding.

Grant Awardee Details

The table below includes the SU/SDs with successful applications.

SU/SD	ELA and/or Literacy	Mathematics	Computer Science	EQS Investment Strategy*
Addison Central SD	✓	✓		HQIM, NBPL/Coaching, System Coaching
Addison Northwest SD	✓	✓		HQIM, NBPL/Coaching
Burlington SD	✓			HQIM
Central VT SU		✓		HQIM, NBPL/Coaching
Hartford SD	✓	✓		HQIM, NBPL/Coaching, System Coaching
Kingdom East Unified Union SD		✓		HQIM, NBPL/Coaching, System Coaching
Milton SD	✓	✓		HQIM, NBPL/Coaching, System Coaching
Missisquoi Valley SD	✓			HQIM, NBPL/Coaching

SU/SD	ELA and/or Literacy	Mathematics	Computer Science	EQS Investment Strategy*
Mt. Abraham Unified SD	✓	✓		HQIM, NBPL/Coaching
Mt. Mansfield Unified Union SD	✓			HQIM
North Country SU	✓			HQIM
Orange Southwest Unified Union SD			✓	NBPL
Orleans Central SU		✓	✓	NBPL
Orleans Southwest SU	✓	✓		HQIM/System Coaching
Rutland Northeast SU		✓		HQIM, NBPL/Coaching
Slate Valley Unified Union SD	✓	✓		HQIM
South Burlington SD	✓	✓		HQIM, NBPL/Coaching
Southwest Vermont SU	✓			HQIM
White River Valley SU	✓	✓		HQIM, NBPL/Coaching
Windham Northeast SU	✓			HQIM, NBPL/Coaching, System Coaching
Windham Southeast SU	✓			HQIM, NBPL/Coaching, System Coaching
Windham Southwest SU	✓			HQIM, NBPL/Coaching, System Coaching
Windsor Southeast	✓	✓		HQIM, NBPL/Coaching

* Education Quality Standards (EQS) Investment Strategy:

- HQIM - Purchasing high-quality instructional materials that may include curricula;
- NBPL/ Coaching - Provision of needs-based professional learning and/or coaching aligned with evidence-based practices and priorities of the SU/SD; and
- System Coaching - Coaching for systemic change at the SU/SD in support of developing or refining a coordinated curriculum.