

Governor Phil Murphy

ICYMI: New Jersey Department of Education Announces Grant Awards to Support Student Literacy

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TRENTON – The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) today announced it has awarded almost \$13.6 million for the first year of federally funded Comprehensive Literacy State Development (CLSD) grants to improve student literacy throughout the state.

“My Administration has made it a priority to equip our children with the skills and support necessary to set them up for lifelong success. This includes our work to bolster literacy education and improve literacy rates among New Jersey students, ensuring our young learners can thrive in the classroom and throughout their academic careers,” **said Governor Phil Murphy**. “Literacy is the tool that unlocks the opportunities education creates for our students. These grant awards will help sustain our efforts to infuse best practices into classrooms across our state, uplifting our school communities with crucial tools and resources.”

“Literacy is a foundational skill needed for learning in all subjects, and these grants build upon our commitment to improving literacy for students across New Jersey,” **said Education Commissioner Kevin Dehmer**. “The strength of this initiative is its comprehensive design. It builds a network of teacher coaches, equips schools with training and high-quality materials, and supports readers from birth through high school.”

“Literacy is the foundation for success in every lesson our children are taught, and building that foundation requires the commitment of everyone – parents, educators, and students alike,” **said Senate Majority Leader M. Teresa Ruiz**. “These new grant programs take a holistic approach to strengthening literacy – training educators to deliver effective instruction, equipping schools with evidence-based resources, and fostering meaningful familial connections through reading at home. This is just one of the first exciting strides in what will be a years-long pursuit to improve our literacy infrastructure and ensure we meet the needs of every young reader.”

New Jersey was awarded a total of \$50 million in the federal CLSD grant to be used over five years. The first year of New Jersey’s CLSD program establishes four distinct grant programs:

- *Cultivating Ongoing Achievement through Coaching in Literacy (COACH-L grants) for teacher coaches*: Nearly \$6 million in grant funding will help 41 school districts and charter schools hire or train qualified literacy coaches to support kindergarten to grade-12 educators. Grantees will participate in a statewide coaching network.
- *Reading Intervention for Secondary Engagement (RISE) for middle and high-school readers*: Over \$1,000,000 will provide funding for school districts and charter schools to implement evidence-based best practices and high-quality literacy instruction materials identified through criteria set by the NJDOE. Eligible costs include 

tutors, literacy coaches, and staff training. A total of 31 districts and charter schools have been awarded up to \$50,000 in the first round of funding.

- *Instructional Materials for Professional Advancement and Coherent Teaching (IMPACT) grants for high-quality instruction materials and training:* This nearly \$5 million grant will help schools implement high-quality instructional materials and provide professional development to ensure staff will effectively utilize the materials. Awards have been given to 25 school districts and charter schools, which range up to \$400,000.
- *Literacy Initiative for Families and Thriving Communities (LIFT) grants for family outreach:* This nearly \$1.6 million initiative, led by the NJDOE in partnership with the New Jersey Department of Children and Families, provides funding of up to \$60,000 for 41 districts and charter schools in this initial year to create programs that develop home-based literacy habits and encourage family involvement in literacy development of children from newborns to age 3.

The grants will build upon the recently released New Jersey [Literacy Framework \(https://www.nj.gov/education/lear/\)](https://www.nj.gov/education/lear/), the NJDOE's resource that supports school districts with valuable evidence-based guidance on the implementation of high-quality literacy screening assessments and strategies for successful literacy instruction and intervention.

Pending the availability of federal funds, the CLSD grant program will continue supporting the COACH program for awarded grantees in good standing for the next four years, and introduce new cohorts of awardees for the IMPACT, LIFT, and RISE grant programs. The NJDOE also intends to make an additional round of LIFT grants available this year.

The preliminary awards for each grant program for the 2025-2026 school year are as follows:

COACH Grants – Total: \$5,980,981

County	School District or Charter School	Grant Award
Atlantic	Absecon Public Schools District	\$150,000
Atlantic	Atlantic Community Charter School	\$150,000
Burlington	Mount Holly Township Public School District	\$136,000
Burlington	Burlington City Public School District	\$149,995
Camden	LEAP Academy University Charter School	\$149,999
Camden	Gloucester Township Public Schools	\$150,000
Camden	Hope Community Charter School	\$149,291
Camden	Clementon Elementary School District	\$150,000

County	School District or Charter School	Grant Award
Cape May	North Wildwood School District	\$150,000
Cumberland	Deerfield Township School District	\$149,865
Essex	Marion P. Thomas Charter School	\$150,000
Essex	Philip's Academy Charter School	\$124,999
Essex	Orange Board of Education School District	\$149,895
Essex	East Orange School District	\$149,891
Gloucester	Clayton Public School District	\$149,943
Gloucester	Woodbury City Public School District	\$149,999
Gloucester	Glassboro School District	\$150,000
Hudson	Dr. Lena Edwards Academic Charter School	\$100,000
Hudson	Harrison Public Schools	\$142,680
Hudson	Hudson Arts and Science Charter School	\$149,999
Mercer	Foundation Academy Charter School	\$149,995
Middlesex	New Brunswick School District	\$149,999
Middlesex	Middlesex Borough School District	\$102,390
Middlesex	Middlesex County STEM Charter School	\$150,000
Middlesex	Dunellen Public School District	\$150,000
Middlesex	South River Public School District	\$150,000
Middlesex	South Amboy School District	\$147,978

County	School District or Charter School	Grant Award
Monmouth	Keyport School District	\$150,000
Monmouth	Keansburg School District	\$149,949
Monmouth	Red Bank Charter School	\$128,121
Morris	Dover Public School District	\$150,000
Ocean	Jackson Township School District	\$149,995
Ocean	Toms River Regional School District	\$150,000
Ocean	Central Regional School District	\$150,000
Passaic	Passaic Arts and Science Charter School	\$149,999
Passaic	Paterson Charter School for Science and Technology	\$150,000
Passaic	Paterson Arts and Science Charter School	\$149,999
Passaic	Clifton Public School District	\$150,000
Salem	Quinton Township School District	\$150,000
Salem	Salem City School District	\$150,000
Somerset	Manville School District	\$150,000

RISE Grants – Total: \$1,064,664

County	School District or Charter School	Grant Award
Atlantic	Absecon Public Schools District	\$30,000
Atlantic	Somers Point School District	\$30,000
Bergen	Wallington Borough School District	\$48,530

County	School District or Charter School	Grant Award
Bergen	Englewood Public School District	\$50,000
Bergen	Bergenfield Borough School District	\$50,000
Bergen	Bogota Public School District	\$50,000
Bergen	Little Ferry Public School District	\$30,000
Camden	Gloucester Township Public Schools	\$50,000
Camden	Pine Hill School District	\$50,000
Camden	Hope Community Charter School	\$16,704
Cumberland	Maurice River Township School District	\$30,000
Cumberland	Deerfield Township School District	\$19,904
Essex	Marion P. Thomas Charter School	\$50,000
Essex	Discovery Charter School	\$20,000
Essex	Essex Regional Educational Services Commission	\$20,000
Gloucester	Gateway Regional High School District	\$30,000
Gloucester	Westville Borough Public School District	\$20,000
Gloucester	National Park Borough School District	\$20,000
Hudson	Hudson Arts and Science Charter School	\$30,000
Middlesex	New Brunswick School District	\$50,000
Middlesex	Middlesex County STEM Charter School	\$30,000
Middlesex	Dunellen Public School District	\$50,000

County	School District or Charter School	Grant Award
Monmouth	Keyport School District	\$30,000
Monmouth	Red Bank Charter School	\$19,996
Monmouth	Bradley Beach School District	\$19,530
Morris	Netcong School District	\$20,000
Ocean	Jackson Township School District	\$50,000
Passaic	Community Charter School of Paterson	\$30,000
Passaic	Paterson Charter School for Science and Technology	\$50,000
Salem	Quinton Township School District	\$20,000
Somerset	Franklin Township Public School District	\$50,000

IMPACT Grants – Total: \$4,975,541

County	School District or Charter School	Grant Award
Bergen	Hackensack School District	\$200,000
Bergen	Bergenfield Borough School District	\$200,000
Bergen	Bergen Arts and Science Charter School	\$50,000
Burlington	Burlington City Public School District	\$99,943
Burlington	Mount Holly Township Public School District	\$100,000
Camden	Winslow Township School District	\$199,985
Camden	Gloucester Township Public Schools	\$200,000
Cumberland	Vineland Public School District	\$398,468

County	School District or Charter School	Grant Award
Cumberland	Compass Academy Charter School	\$99,999
Essex	East Orange School District	\$399,940
Essex	Newark Public School District	\$400,000
Hudson	Kearny School District	\$200,000
Hudson	Hudson Arts and Science Charter School	\$30,000
Middlesex	New Brunswick School District	\$400,000
Middlesex	North Brunswick Township School District	\$198,009
Middlesex	Dunellen Public School District	\$100,000
Monmouth	Keansburg School District	\$99,999
Monmouth	Keyport School District	\$100,000
Monmouth	Eatontown Public School District	\$99,306
Ocean	Brick Township Public School District	\$400,000
Ocean	Jackson Township School District	\$400,000
Passaic	Passaic Arts and Science Charter School	\$50,000
Passaic	Paterson Arts and Science Charter School	\$50,000
Union	Plainfield Public School District	\$400,000
Union	Roselle Park Public School District	\$99,892

LIFT Grants – Total: \$1,557,059

County	School District or Charter School	Grant Award
Atlantic	Egg Harbor City School District	\$20,000
Atlantic	Mullica Township School District	\$20,000
Bergen	Hackensack School District	\$60,000
Bergen	Englewood Public School District	\$40,000
Bergen	Moonachie School District	\$19,997
Bergen	Little Ferry Public School District	\$20,000
Burlington	Burlington City Public School District	\$39,976
Camden	Gloucester Township Public Schools	\$60,000
Camden	Brooklawn Public School District	\$20,000
Cape May	Wildwood City School District	\$20,000
Cape May	Woodbine School District	\$19,999
Cumberland	Deerfield Township School District	\$19,997
Cumberland	Millville School District	\$60,000
Cumberland	Compass Academy Charter School	\$19,847
Essex	Newark Public School District	\$60,000
Essex	Belleville Public School District	\$59,988
Essex	East Orange School District	\$60,000
Essex	Orange Board of Education School District	\$60,000
Gloucester	Clayton Public School District	\$40,000

County	School District or Charter School	Grant Award
Gloucester	National Park Borough School District	\$9,265
Gloucester	Westville Borough Public School District	\$20,000
Hudson	Harrison Public Schools	\$39,993
Hudson	Bayonne School District	\$55,569
Hudson	Weehawken Public School District	\$40,000
Middlesex	Middlesex Borough School District	\$40,000
Middlesex	New Brunswick School District	\$60,000
Middlesex	Dunellen Public School District	\$40,000
Monmouth	Long Branch Public School District	\$60,000
Monmouth	Red Bank Borough Public School District	\$33,500
Monmouth	Keyport School District	\$20,000
Monmouth	Keansburg School District	\$39,996
Monmouth	Eatontown Public School District	\$39,765
Monmouth	Asbury Park School District	\$39,303
Morris	Netcong School District	\$20,000
Ocean	Jackson Township School District	\$60,000
Salem	Salem City School District	\$39,918
Salem	Quinton Township School District	\$20,000
Somerset	Manville School District	\$40,000

County	School District or Charter School	Grant Award
Union	Roselle Park Public School District	\$40,000
Union	Plainfield Public School District	\$60,000
Warren	Mansfield Township Elementary School District	\$19,946

Governor Phil Murphy

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