

Connected Literacy: Engaging Parents as Partners Project Abstract

The Tennessee Department of Education's (TDOE's) Connected Literacy: Engaging Parents as Partners proposal is aligned to *Absolute Priority 1* in the Education Stabilization Fund's Rethinking K-12 Education Models grant. The primary goal of the Connected Literacy project is to remediate and accelerate literacy development through parent choice by providing vital early grades literacy support for our youngest students (grades 1-3) who were most impacted by the COVID-19 school closures. This initiative will offer microgrants to families to access instruction and tutoring grounded in Tennessee's Foundational Skills Curriculum.

Families will be empowered to select a partner from TDOE-approved providers for remote summer, after-school, and weekend learning supports, along with the technology, access, and supplemental instructional materials needed for students to be successful. The TDOE will ensure that all providers have completed the appropriate training in Tennessee's Foundational Skills Curriculum. In addition, the TDOE will develop student eligibility and parent-friendly operational structures to ensure the program is supporting Tennessee's most vulnerable students in recovering and accelerating learning in literacy. To accomplish the stated goal by the end of the grant period, Connected Literacy will have provided 493,968 hours of learning to more than 13,000 eligible students and their families, engaged 70 providers in developing 35 new remote learning options, provided 6,851 students with broadband access and 8,667 students with devices, and gathered feedback from 5,763 families, with ultimately 80% or greater responding favorably to survey questions. The percentage of students who improve in reading proficiency from pre- to post-test will increase by 3 percentage points per year.

Approximately 80% of grant funds will be awarded to parents for microgrants, with another 15% of funds earmarked to provide technology supports to families and students (e.g.,

hardware, software, wi-fi, etc.). The remaining 5% of funds will be retained to establish the administrative and operational supports needed for successful grant implementation.