2026-27 Professional Learning
Early Literacy Grant Application

- Contracted School Readiness (SR) providers with the Early Learning Coalition of Duval (ELC of Duval) **and** have the ELC of Duval listed as their **home** coalition may apply for the **2026-27 Professional Learning Early Literacy Grant**. The director or owner must have an active **2026-27 SR Contract** with the ELC of Duval.
- The director or owner must have children enrolled in the center who are in the 0–5-year-old age range at the time the director or owner applies for the grant. This grant is not intended for school agers (6 years old and up).
- Approximately **20** childcare centers will be awarded up to $10,000 and approximately **10** family childcare homes will be awarded up to $7000.
- The facility's plan and purchases must support **early literacy** across all age groups served and include teacher-child interactions that promote continuous improvement.
- The facility's plan and purchases should also strengthen the practices of the staff and improve the overall quality of the facility.
- **All materials purchases must begin on or after July 1, 2026.** The period of allowable expenditures is from July 1, 2026 through May 31, 2027.
- Directors or owners who received funding from the 2025-26 Professional Learning STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) Grant cannot apply.
- Staff must receive stipends for completing at least three (3) hours of **mandatory early literacy training**. The early literacy training can be provided by the center's director or owner and/or an early literacy training vendor. Staff must successfully complete the mandatory early literacy training to be eligible to receive a stipend.
- The purpose of this grant is to provide support with purchasing classroom materials and/or resources whether it be to enhance current programming or provide new materials and/or resources for future programming. The grant is not intended to provide intensive professional development bonuses for staff.
- The 2026-27 Professional Learning Early Literacy Grant will be posted on the ELC of Duval via WebAuthor portal from **Monday, November 9, 2026 to Monday, November 30, 2026**.
- Applications must be submitted by noon on **Monday, November 30, 2026.** The director or owner must complete the 2026-27 Professional Learning Early Literacy Grant Application **in its entirety**, provide a complete response to every question in each section, and submit the application with all required supporting documentation through the WebAuthor portal.
- Notification of awards will be announced beginning in January 2027.

- A scoring rubric will be used to evaluate the grant applications. The childcare centers and family childcare homes receiving the highest scores will be guaranteed grant funding.

- The responses to the questions should be detailed and clearly represent how **early literacy improvements** will make an impact on the quality of their early learning classrooms. How well the director or owner identifies the focus and justification of why they need this additional funding is important.

- Virtual assistants such as Siri, Alexa, and Google Assistant have many benefits; however; the information produced by these digital platforms should not be used to produce your final responses. The coalition's desire is to receive responses from providers that are original and meet the individual needs of your center.

- Only approved applicants must complete and submit a 2026-27 Professional Learning Early Literacy Grant Expense Report. Supporting documentation for all expenditures of funds awarded through this grant must be submitted via the WebAuthor portal no later than **June 30, 2027,** to remain in good standing with the ELC of Duval. The items of supporting documentation that must be submitted along with the Expense Report are:
    1. receipts, invoices paid, bank statements or cleared checks of **all** expenses,
    2. proof of stipend payments to staff participant(s)/recipient(s)
    3. sign-in sheets, agendas, PPT presentations and/or videos, showing evidence of **mandatory** early literacy staff training activity (minimum of 3 hours)
- Any funds unspent must be returned to the coalition. The amount owed to the coalition is typically taken from SR payments.
- The coalition reserves the right to adjust the stipend, and any expense amounts submitted on the budget based on availability of funds, the responses within each application, and the provider type/size/employee count, etc.
- An approved Professional Learning Early Literacy Grant recipient will be paid the **total awarded** amount within 30 calendar days of ELC of Duval approval.
- A Professional Learning Early Literacy Grant Application will be "approved" or "not approved" by the ELC of Duval after the **first** submission. **All decisions are final.**
- All questions can be directed to Johnna Daniels at jdaniels@elcduval.org.