SY26-27 Literacy Tutoring Grant Program
District-Facing Guidance

Literacy Tutoring Grant Program

2026-2027 Guidance for School Districts and Open-Enrollment Public Charter Schools

$1,500	K-3	$8.5 million	October 1
per eligible student	plus good-cause grade 4 students	available for 2026-2027	family notice deadline

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Program Overview

The Arkansas Literacy Tutoring Grant Program provides up to **$1,500** per eligible student per school year for literacy tutoring services or evidence-based digital literacy programs from a state-approved provider.[1] The program serves public school and open-enrollment public charter school students in kindergarten through grade 3 who need additional reading support, including students who receive a good-cause exemption for promotion to grade 4.

The Arkansas Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) administers the program and partners with ClassWallet, a digital wallet platform, to pay approved providers directly. Families never handle grant funds. DESE is allocating **$8.5 million** for the 2026-2027 school year, and grants are awarded first-come, first-served, with priority for the students described in Section 4.

District Responsibilities

What the law requires

Each public school district and open-enrollment public charter school must notify the parent, legal guardian, or person standing in loco parentis of:

- Each student who is eligible for the Literacy Tutoring Grant Program;
- The process for applying for the grant; and
- Other information provided by DESE.

How districts meet this requirement

- Retrieve the eligible-student list and the DESE-prepared family letters from the **Digi Locker** portal when DESE posts them.
- Send each letter to the student's family promptly. Each letter carries the student's district, school, name, and state student ID, which the family needs to register.
- Share the *Quick Guide for Parents and Guardians* with each letter so families can follow the four registration steps.

[1] Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-429(j)(2) (Right to Read Act), created by Act 237 of 2023 (LEARNS Act) and amended by Act 195 of 2025, which raised the grant from $500 to $1,500.

- Keep a record of the date and method of each notification.

2026-2027 Timeline

DESE notifies superintendents of eligible students in two stages. Students notified in Stage 1 receive priority to apply before other eligible students.

Stage	Action	Date
Stage 1	DESE notifies superintendents, through Digi Locker, of eligible students in priority groups 1-3 (see Section 4).	**November 2026**
Stage 1	Districts send the DESE-provided letters to families of Stage 1 students.	Promptly after release
Stage 1	Families register in ClassWallet. DESE reviews and approves registrations first-come, first-served; students are waitlisted when approved awards exceed available funds.	**November 2026**
Stage 2	DESE notifies superintendents, through Digi Locker, of all remaining eligible students, provided funds are available.	**December 2026**
Stage 2	Districts send the DESE-provided letters to the remaining families.	Promptly after release
Stage 2	Families register, select a provider, and begin services. DESE approves registrations first-come, first-served.	**December 2026**
Notice	Families who have not used at least 50 percent of their grant by March 1, 2027, may have their remaining funds withdrawn and reassigned to students on the waitlist.	**March 1, 2027**
Both stages	All invoices for tutoring services must be submitted for payment.	**June 30, 2027**
End of year	Unspent grant funds expire. Funds do not roll over to 2027-2028.	**June 30, 2027**

Student Eligibility and Priority

An eligible student is any student enrolled in a public school or open-enrollment public charter school in kindergarten through grade 3 who:

- Does not meet the reading standard, as defined by the State Board of Education;
- Is at risk for reading difficulties according to the results of a high-quality literacy screener; or
- Has received a good-cause exemption for promotion to grade 4, pending the availability of funds.

When funding is limited, DESE awards grants in the following priority order:[2]

1. Students who were retained the previous year
2. Students in the lowest 15 percent of the reporting category in kindergarten through grade 3
3. The remaining lowest quartile of grade 3

[2] 6 CAR § 282-101, Rules Governing Tutoring Grants.

4. The remaining lowest quartile of grade 2
5. The remaining lowest quartile of grade 1
6. The remaining lowest quartile of kindergarten

How Families Register

Families register at **https://bit.ly/2027LiteracyTutoringGrant** using the information on their eligibility letter. A valid email address is required. Families should have the following ready:

Student information	Parent or guardian information
• District name • School name • Student name • State student ID number	• Name • Phone number • Email address

ClassWallet verifies the family and student information and eligibility, then emails the family a registration approval and welcome message, usually within 14 days. Families who do not see it should check their spam or junk folder and add **info@classwallet.com** and **automation@app.smartsheet.com** to their safe sender list.

After approval, the family logs in to ClassWallet and:

1. Accepts the affidavit agreeing to the grant policies, including assurances that the student will remain enrolled in an Arkansas public school or open-enrollment public charter school for the rest of the school year and that funds will be spent only on allowable services;
2. Selects an approved provider and contacts the provider to arrange services; and
3. Schedules and receives services.

Waitlist. DESE keeps a waitlist of registered students who cannot receive a grant because funds are exhausted. If more funding becomes available, DESE awards grants to waitlisted students by priority group and, within each group, first-come, first-served. Students identified as English learners may still receive a grant while other students are waitlisted, because DESE has dedicated funding to support English learners in 2026-2027.

Approved Uses and Providers

Grant funds may be used only for the following services designed to improve reading or literacy skills:

- **Online or in-person, high-dosage tutoring** from a state-approved provider whose tutors are trained in the science of reading and hold a valid teaching certificate in elementary education or reading, or a bachelor's or graduate degree in education, English, or another field showing expertise in reading and literacy; or
- **Evidence-based digital literacy applications or software** from a state-approved list of programs aligned with the science of reading.

The current approved providers are listed in the SY26-27 Approved Tutoring Vendor List. DESE vets providers and digital programs using its tutoring vendor rubric and updates the list on a rolling basis. Every provider must complete the **2026-27 LTGP Vendor Renewal** to serve families this year.

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Invoicing and Payments

1. **Provider invoices.** After delivering services, the provider gives the family a completed LTG-approved standardized invoice, available on the Arkansas Literacy Tutoring Grant website. The invoice must show the tutor's name; the student's full name and student ID; the parent's full name; the invoice date; the date or time frame of service; the item code; and the quantity. Handwritten invoices are not accepted.
2. **Family upload.** The family uploads the invoice to ClassWallet as a PDF, JPEG, or PNG file and submits the payment request, identifying the provider, payment amount, and expense type.
3. **DESE review.** DESE reviews each request and its documentation to confirm the services are allowable.
4. **Payment.** After DESE approval, ClassWallet pays the provider directly.

Unspent funds expire on **June 30, 2027**, and do not roll over. A student who is eligible again in 2027-2028 must register again.

Recommended Uptake Strategies

Districts may encourage schools to use the following strategies to help eligible families register and use their grants.

Family engagement Add information about the grant to existing family events, such as back-to-school nights and parent-teacher conferences.	**Office hours** Train front-office staff to help families register in ClassWallet, and offer open office hours (one to two hours per week) for families who need help.
Targeted outreach Give teachers flyers and the parent Quick Guide to send home, and ask them to follow up with eligible families who have not registered.	**Intervention materials** Make high-quality intervention materials available to identified students, including online resources families can use at home.

Questions? Program: ade.tutoring@ade.arkansas.gov ClassWallet portal: classwallet.com/support