

Elementary School Library Access to Books Mini-Grant Application

Applications are due June 5, 2012. Award notifications will be sent by June 29, 2012. Funds will be awarded by September 15, 2012 and need to be spent by March 15, 2013.

Funding was allocated during the 2012 Legislative session to help increase access to print for Idaho's youngest students. The amount of reading done in homes is the single most important factor in developing children's literacy skills. Research shows that if children are not reading on grade level by the end of first grade, there's only a one in eight chance they will ever catch up without costly direct intervention. Providing access to hundreds of age-appropriate quality books through school library lending programs is one of the most cost-effective strategies used to increase literacy skills. Funds from this program can be used to purchase books to help ensure that access to materials starts from the beginning of children's schooling. This grant program has three primary goals:

- 1) Increase the amount of reading done in homes of children in developmental preschool programs, kindergarten, and first grade.
- 2) Increase access to age-appropriate quality nonfiction and fiction titles in elementary school libraries.
- 3) Increase the number of children reading on grade level.

Applications will be ranked by the number of students eligible for free and reduced lunches and IRI scores. Schools that agree to lend books to children enrolled in district developmental preschool programs will be ranked higher. We would like to see school libraries funded throughout the state so geographical distribution will be taken into consideration while ranking applications. School districts can have more than one elementary school apply.

Need Statement:

1. IRI scores by building (found at <https://www.sde.idaho.gov/ipd/iri/IriAnalysis.asp>)

School's Idaho Reading Indicator (IRI) Scores for Fall 2011

KINDERGARTEN:	# Students	%	FIRST GRADE:	# Students	%
Benchmark	_____	_____	Benchmark	_____	_____
Strategic	_____	_____	Strategic	_____	_____
Intensive	_____	_____	Intensive	_____	_____
SECOND GRADE:	# Students	%	THIRD GRADE:	# Students	%
Benchmark	_____	_____	Benchmark	_____	_____
Strategic	_____	_____	Strategic	_____	_____
Intensive	_____	_____	Intensive	_____	_____

Note: If your school is very small, actual numbers may not be listed on the IRI website. Please indicate percentages or other indicators here:

2. Percentage of students in your district who are eligible for free and reduced lunches (found at www.sde.idaho.gov/site/cnp/statisticsFinance/ by district):

3. Anything else you'd like to note about your school's needs:

4. How many books per week were kindergarteners allowed to check out from your library to take home during the 2011-2012 school year?

Fall 2011 semester _____ Spring 2012 semester _____

5. How many books per week were first graders allowed to check out from your library to take home during the 2011-2012 school year?

Fall 2011 semester _____ Spring 2012 semester _____

6. Does your school have a developmental preschool program on school grounds?

_____ Yes _____ No

7. If so, are those students allowed to check out school library books to take home?

Current school budget:

8. What was the total *dollar amount* of your book budget from your school district during the 2011-2012 school year? _____

9. What funds from other sources did you have for library books during the 2011-2012 school year? Please include source and amount of funds.

Source	Amount
1.	
2.	
3.	

10. Total book budget for 2011-2012 _____

11. Grant Amount Requested:

_____ \$1,000 _____ \$2,000 _____ \$3,000 _____ \$4,000 _____ \$5,000

If your school is awarded grant funds, the following requirements will need to be met.

- All kindergarten students will be allowed to check out more than one book per week starting in their first semester of school.
- If your school has a developmental preschool program on school grounds, all children enrolled in that program will be allowed to check out more than one book a week starting in their first semester of school.
- At least 40 percent of the funds will be spent on age-appropriate (pre-K -- grade 2) nonfiction books and students in all grades will be allowed to check out nonfiction books. Remaining grant funds will be spent on fiction books. Accelerated Reader tests are not an allowable purchase with these grant funds.
- School library representative will need to participate in an introductory conference call or one-hour webinar in September and a mid-way check-in meeting via conference call or webinar in December.
- An interim report is due in December and a final report is due by April 19, 2013.
- Final reports will ask for a list of fiction and nonfiction titles purchased with grant funds, circulation statistics by grade level (when possible), and feedback on changes in circulation practices.

In signing this application, we agree to follow the requirements listed above.

Signature of Principal _____

Please print name of principal _____

Signature of Superintendent _____

Please print name of superintendent _____

Signature of School Library Representative _____

Please print name of school library rep _____

Date _____

Elementary School Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Contact Person/Applicant: _____

School Phone: _____

Home phone (if we need to get in touch with you over the summer): _____

School email: _____

Home email: _____

Applications must be mailed to Stephanie Bailey-White at the Idaho Commission for Libraries, 325 W. State St. Boise ID 83702 by June 5, 2012. Applicants will be notified as to their status by email by June 29, 2012.