

V. General (state funds), Miscellaneous Revenue, and Library Services Improvement Fund (LSIF)

C. Grants – School Library Access Mini-Grant Awards – Information item

The Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) receives \$200,000 in state general funds annually to make subawards to school libraries through the School Library Access Mini-Grant program (SLA). The ICfL will shift \$5,000 to the Bucks for Books Grant because one SLA Grant recipient declined their award. As a result, the total amount distributed for SLA grants will be \$195,000.

Funds from this program are used to purchase books to help ensure access to high-quality reading materials for elementary and secondary students. This grant program has four primary goals for elementary schools:

- Increase the amount of reading done in the homes of Idaho’s elementary school students, particularly those in pre-K, kindergarten, and first grade.
- Increase access to age-appropriate, quality nonfiction and fiction titles in elementary school libraries, especially for primary students.
- Increase the number of children reading at grade level.
- Increase school libraries’ financial support from their school districts.

The program has three primary goals for secondary schools:

- Increase the amount of recreational reading done by students in grades 6-12.
- Increase access to age-appropriate, high-quality nonfiction and fiction titles in secondary school libraries.
- Increase the number of students in grades 6-12 reading at grade level.

In 2025, 30 elementary schools and 23 secondary schools applied for the School Library Access Mini-Grant. Forty-three schools received grant awards. One applicant declined the grant offer due to the library closing. Two applicants were ineligible because they had received the grant during the 2022–2023 grant cycle. Per eligibility guidelines, applicants may not have received the grant within the last three grant years (2022–2023 school year and later). One library's proposal did not meet the grant requirements. The remaining six applicants were not awarded funding due to the competitive nature of the grant process and limited available funds. While their proposals were considered, they received lower evaluation scores compared to others.

Funds will be distributed in September, after grantees attend a full-day training hosted by the ICfL. The training covers early literacy, vocabulary development, and reading comprehension. It also focuses on strategies for secondary school librarians to create a culture of reading.

Here are the fiscal year 2025 School Library Access Mini-Grant applicants and award amounts:

Elementary Schools

- Bickel Elementary School, Twin Falls School District #411 - \$5,000
- Calder Elementary School, Avery School District #394 - \$1,000
- Cottonwood Elementary School, Jefferson School District #251 - \$5,000

- Dora Erickson Elem School, Idaho Falls School District 91 - \$5,000
- Fort Hall Elementary School, Blackfoot School District #55 - \$5,000
- Frontier Elementary School, Jerome School District - \$5,000
- Glens Ferry Elementary School, Glens Ferry School District #192 - \$5,000
- Hamer Elementary School, West Jefferson School District #253 - \$2,000
- Harwood Elementary School, Jefferson Joint School District 251 - \$5,000
- Heyburn Elementary School, St. Maries School District #41 - \$3,000
- Hillview Elementary School, Bonneville School District #93 - \$5,000
- Indian Creek Elementary School, Kuna School District #3 - \$5,000
- Inkom Elementary School, Marsh Valley School District #21 - \$5,000
- Kamiah Elementary School, Kamiah School District #304 - \$5,000
- Malad Elementary School, Oneida County 351 - \$5,000
- McSorley Elementary School, Lewiston Independent School District #1 - \$5,000
- Murtaugh Elementary School, Murtaugh Schools #418 - \$5,000
- Parker-Egin Elementary School, Fremont School District #215 - \$5,000
- Potlatch Elementary School, Potlatch School District #285 - \$3,000
- Prairie Elem./Jr. High School, Prairie Elementary School District #191 - \$5,000
- Rupert Elementary School, Minidoka County #331 - \$5,000
- Seltice Elementary School, Post Falls School District #273 - \$5,000
- Swan Valley Elementary School, Swan Valley School District #92 - \$5,000
- Warhawk Elementary School, Vallivue School District #139 - \$5,000
- Webster Elementary School, Lewiston Independent School District #1 - \$5,000
- Whitney Elementary School, Boise Independent School District #1 - \$5,000

Secondary Schools

- Bliss High School, Bliss School District #234 - \$5,000
- Borah High School, Boise Independent School District - \$5,000
- Clark Fork Jr/Sr High School, Lake Pend Oreille #84 - \$3,000
- Deary Middle School/ Deary High School, Whitepine Joint School District #288 - \$3,000
- Kamiah Jr-Sr High School, Kamiah School District #304 - \$3,000
- Kootenai Jr-Sr High School, Kootenai School District #274 - \$5,000
- Lone Star Middle School, Nampa School District - \$5,000
- Malad Middle School, Oneida School District #351 - \$4,000
- Murtaugh Jr/Sr High School, Murtaugh School District - \$5,000
- Paradise Creek Regional High School, Moscow School District #281 - \$5,000
- Pathways Middle School, West Ada School District - \$5,000
- Shoshone-Bannock Jr./Sr. High School, Shoshone-Bannock School District #537 - \$5,000
- South Hills Middle School, Twin Falls School District - \$5,000
- Sugar Salem High School, Sugar Salem School District #322 - \$5,000
- Timberlake Middle School, Lakeland SD #272 - \$3,000
- Vallivue Middle School, Vallivue School District #139 - \$5,000
- Weiser High School, Weiser School District #431 - \$5,000

43 grant awards, total \$195,000

School Library Access Mini-Grant Declines

- Alameda Middle School, Pocatello/Chubbuck School District #25
- Black Canyon Middle School, Bonneville School District #93
- Central Academy, West Ada School District #2
- Crossroads Middle School, West Ada School District
- Kimberly Middle School, Kimberly School District #414
- Mountain View Elementary School, Boise Independent School District
- Snake River Middle School, Snake River School District #52
- Taylor's Crossing Public Charter, District 461
- Troy Elementary School, Troy School District #287