

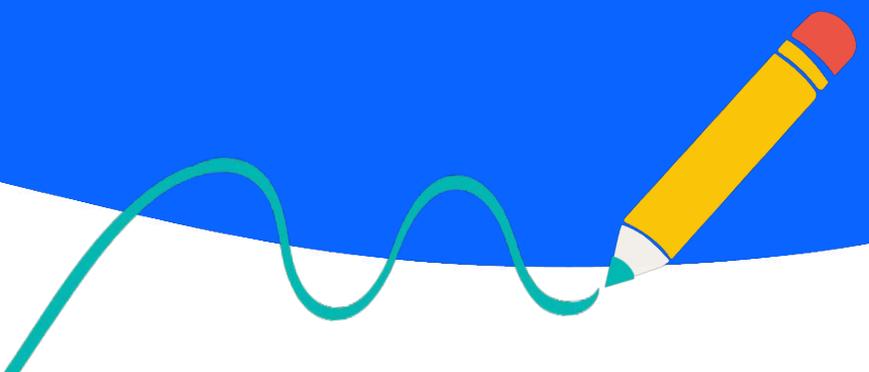


# Funding Your Programs

## Navigating Federal, State, and Local Resources

- Dr. Paige Whitlock, *Literacy Director, NoRedInk*
- Dr. Jenny House, *President, RedRock Reports*

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**Dr.  
Paige  
Whitloc  
k**

- Literacy Director at NoRedInk
- Supporter of educational leaders making systemic changes in literacy instruction
- Former ELA teacher, school and district administrator
- Taught in seven states, eight school districts



**Dr. Jenny House**

- President, RedRock Reports (education funding services)
- Former educator: teacher, reading specialist, administrator, university instructor
- Education leader at HP, Apple, and multiple K–12 startups
- Advisor to ed tech companies and education-focused VC firms

# Session n Goals



Provide a snapshot of the state of education **funding for K-12**



Review the **federal funds** that can be used to purchase language arts products and services



Suggest topics and questions for administrators to pose about state legislations and subsequent **state or local funding** sources



Identify **state trends in funding** that will impact schools through the remainder of the 2025-26 school year.



To provide some **resources for decision makers** to access to provide alternative funding options.





# A Snapshot of K-12 Funding

# Status of K-12 Funding for 2025-26

## Tightening school budgets nationwide

- Declining student enrollment
- Delays and challenges in federal funding distribution
- Student shifts to private and homeschool options
- Rising operational costs (insurance, transportation, salaries, retirements)
- Teacher shortages driving higher recruitment and PD costs
- Increasing special education service expenses

## States increasing K-12 funding

- Maine ● Missouri ● Nebraska ● New Hampshire
- Alabama ● Colorado ● Illinois ● Indiana ● Pennsylvania

# Trend: State School Choice Policies

## ESAs



Alabama  
 Arizona  
 Arkansas  
 Florida  
 Georgia  
 Indiana  
 Iowa  
 Louisiana  
 Mississippi  
 Montana  
 New Hampshire  
 North Carolina  
 South Carolina  
 Tennessee  
 Texas  
 Utah  
 West Virginia

## Vouchers



Arkansas  
 Georgia  
 Indiana  
 Louisiana  
 Maine  
 Maryland  
 Mississippi  
 Nebraska  
 New Hampshire  
 North Carolina  
 Ohio  
 Oklahoma  
 Vermont  
 Wisconsin

## Tax-Credit Scholarships



Alabama  
 Arizona  
 Arkansas  
 Florida  
 Georgia  
 Illinois  
 Indiana  
 Iowa  
 Kansas  
 Louisiana  
 Montana  
 Nevada  
 New Hampshire  
 Ohio  
 Oklahoma  
 Pennsylvania  
 Rhode Island  
 South Carolina  
 South Dakota



# Federal Funds

# Understanding Federal Funding Changes

- Potential reduction or closure of the U.S. Department of Education
- Programs redistributed through partnerships with other agencies (ex: Dept. of Labor), including:
  - Title I (Parts A, B, C &D)
  - Title II (Part A)
  - Title III (Part A)
  - Title IV (Parts A & B: 21st CCLC)
  - Impact Aid
  - Homeless Education
  - CTE

# Federal Competitive Grants to DOL

- Innovative Approaches to Literacy
- Supporting Effective Educator Development
- Charter Schools Program\*
- Promise Neighborhoods
- Full-Service Community Schools
- Magnet Schools Assistance Programs

# 25-26 Federal Funds for Literacy Programs

Title I  
\$18.4B

Title II  
\$2.19B

Title III  
\$890M

Title IV-A  
\$1.38B

Title IV-B  
\$1.3B

Title V  
\$225M

CTE  
\$1.4B

Impact Aid  
\$1.63B

Spec Ed  
\$14.8B

# 26-27 Changes to Federal Education Funding

- Continuing resolution through January 30
- Federal funds shift to state block grants
  - Expanded role for state departments to manage funding vision and distribution
- Current proposal for federal funding
  - Eliminates most program funding
  - Maintains or increases funding for:
    - Special Education (+4.8%)
    - Title I-A (level funding)
    - CTE (level funding)
    - Charter Schools (+\$400M)



# State Funds

# State Changes

## Long-term goal: shift to federal block grants for states

- Designed to increase state flexibility
- State departments become funding gatekeepers

## States requesting unrestricted block grants now:

- Indiana
- Oklahoma
- Iowa
  - received ESSA waiver (1/7/26)
  - Ed-Flex authority expands state control

# More State Changes

## Most states support public school choice

- Options include: local public schools, charters, open enrollment

## State choice programs:

- 18 states with ESAs
- 14 states with vouchers (plus DC & Puerto Rico)
- 19 states with tax-credit scholarships

## Growing trends:

- Homeschooling
- Microschools



**What Does This  
Mean For YOU?**

# Watch for federal policy and funding changes

## Key topics:

- Future of special education funding
- Dept. of Labor's role in fund distribution
- Shifting education priorities

## Current trends:

- Literacy as a top focus
- Growing interest in AI (funding impact unclear)

## Action steps:

- Learn your state's priorities. Funding follows them
- Align your goals with state priorities
- Monitor state grant opportunities regularly
- Explore corporate partnerships and local grant options

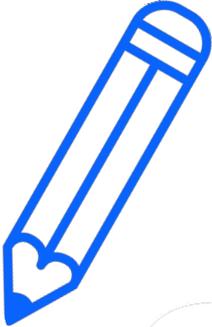
# Grant Readiness & Strategy

- Identify local companies and agencies that offer school grants
- Understand funding rules (PD, materials, matching, partners, in-kind)
- Actively market your programs
- Document success with metrics and evidence of impact
- Prepare reusable grant templates
- Be ready to respond quickly to RFAs and opportunities
- Remember: up to 80% of grant applications use the same information



# Q & A

Partnering with  
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# Standards Alignment



Assignment Library > Standards & Tests



Choose your standards or a test to find aligned activities.

Common Core  
Standards

Smarter Balanced

Alabama Standards

Alabama ACAP

Alaska Standards

Alaska STAR

Arizona Standards

Arizona State Tests

Arkansas Standards

Arkansas ATLAS

California Standards

Colorado Standards

Colorado CMAS

Connecticut Standards

Delaware Standards

Florida B.E.S.T.  
Standards

# Scalable Differentiation

How to make the most of Guided Draft

**Want help with your introduction?**

**Key Parts of the Introduction**  
In your first paragraph, draw your readers in and present your argument.

- Hook**  
Open your essay with an attention-grabbing statement.
- Bridge**  
Transition readers from the larger idea in your hook to the specific argument in your thesis statement.
- Thesis Statement**  
State the debatable opinion you will argue in your essay.

[View tutorial](#) [View examples](#)

**Tips and Tricks**  
You don't have to write your essay in order. For example, if you're having trouble coming up with a hook, try starting out by just writing your thesis. Then, draft your body paragraphs. It's okay to write your introduction last!

**Title**  
Most Useful App

**Introduction**  
Enter your introduction here...

**Add your body paragraphs** Required

**Add your counterargument** Required

**Add your conclusion** Required

**Tips, lessons, and exemplars guide students through composing essays in all genres**

# Personalized, High-Interest Content

Dogs have a way of reflecting humans' emotions. Take a look at the dogs in the pictures. Which one best expresses the way you feel today? Write a paragraph describing your current thoughts and feelings.

Enter your writing here...



Assignment Results > Jessica Giraffe

Change student  
Jessica Giraffe

Submission

Prompt

Copy essay

Print

Insights

Likes Boost Confidence

Getting likes on social media is a hot topic these days. In my opinion, social media sites should keep showing the number of likes a post gets. First, they boost the user's confidence. For example, when I see that a lot of people liked my pictures or video, I get a warm and fuzzy feeling inside. Likes also help show what's popular and encourage people to post more. Maybe a person sees that cute cat pictures are getting a lot of love, so they decide to share a pic of their own cat.

0 1 2

Comments

Good job stating a claim that answers the prompt. However, your claim should be the first sentence of your paragraph.

Evidence supports the claim (at least two pieces)

0 1 2

Comments

Nice work! You supported your claim with evidence.

Explanation connects the evidence to the claim

0 1 2

Comments

Great job! It's clear how your evidence supports your claim.

- Post grade and comments
- Send back for revisions

Return to student

Topic sentence states a claim that answers the prompt

0 1 2

Comments

Good job stating a claim that answers the prompt. However, your claim should be the first sentence of your paragraph.

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Comments

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Explanation connects the evidence to the claim

0 1 2

Comments

Great job! It's clear how your evidence supports your claim.

CCSS 1.B

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# Feedback



[bit.ly/NRI-W-Feedback](https://bit.ly/NRI-W-Feedback)



# Resources

# Resources

- [State Tables by Program, Fiscal Year 2024-FY 2026 President's Budget](#)
- [State Tables by State, Fiscal Year 2024-FY 2026 President's Budget](#)
- [Link to Interagency Agreements between USED and DOL](#)
- **Education R&D Funding Tracker**  
The Alliance for Learning and Innovation (ALI) has developed a new tracker that allows members to explore education research and development funding opportunities nationwide through [a comprehensive online portal](#). Drawing on data from the Institute of Education Sciences and additional sources, this tool helps you discover funding by geographic region, topic area, or time period.

