

Year 1 [FY25] January 2025 – June 30, 2025

Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

FY2025

Name of Grant Program: Partnership for Reading Success – Massachusetts (PRISM) I	Fund Code: 0592
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PRISM Fund Use Details

This attachment provides full details about how PRISM I funds may be used. This grant will provide funding as well as hands-on support from Department specialists for five years for recipients to improve early literacy teaching and learning and accomplish the activities listed in the RFP.

Important Note

At the time of application, the LEA must be using high-quality instructional materials for Tier 1 instruction in grades K-3 ELA/literacy.

“High quality core curricular materials” for grades K-3 ELA/Literacy are defined as having an overall rating of Meeting Expectations or Partially Meeting Expectations on a CURATE review.

Please note: If the core instructional materials do not include a foundational skills component, but does meet the criterion listed above, evidence-based foundational skills curricular materials must be in use in as well.

Please read the rest of this document for details on FY25 PRISM funding. Please note that all PRISM-funded purchases MUST be pre-approved by DESE before they are made by the LEA.

Funds Provided to Awarded LEAs (not to exceed \$30,000 for FY25)

1. **Stipends for Educators to participate on the PRISM Leadership Team:** The PRISM Leadership Team will work together to coordinate and enact the multi-year work of this initiative, across schools and community-based preschool providers. Funds may be budgeted for educators to serve on the PRISM Leadership Team, to cover:
 - a. Stipends for time beyond contractual hours to serve on the PRISM Leadership Team (e.g., attend PRISM Leadership Team meetings, work on plans, facilitate meetings and/or presentations)
 - b. Stipends for representatives of community-based preschool providers to serve on the PRISM Leadership Team
 - i. All LEAs that offer preK will be required to partner with at least two community-based preK providers and include them in the work of this initiative, in order to expand the impact of the preK work to students learning in both district and community-based settings. This requirement will not apply to LEAs that have zero preK students enrolled.
 - ii. Please note that for some LEAs, stipends for community-based PreK providers will require the development of a contract between the LEA and the community-based provider.
 - c. travel costs, if applicable (i.e., to visit a nearby PRISM district or school). Please note that out-of-state travel is not allowable under this grant.

GEM\$ Budgeting Note

On GEM\$, please budget up to \$10,000 in Object Code 01: Professional Salaries (non-MTRS) for Function Code LDRS (Instructional Leaders), Function Code TCHR (Teachers), and/or Function Code PARA (Paraprofessionals) depending on who will be on the PRISM Leadership Team.

2. **Stipends for Educators to support PRISM work beyond contractual hours or duties:** All educators working on early literacy (e.g., classroom teachers, community-based preschool teachers, special educators, ESL teachers, administrators, leaders of community-based preschools, coaches) will contribute to PRISM planning work in FY25. For instance, these educators might be asked to compile and share data, respond to surveys, participate in focus groups, share lesson plans, submit student work, etc. These funds may be budgeted stipend educators, including educators from community-based PreK partners, for their PRISM-related work beyond contractual hours or duties, if needed. The following educators can be stipended from this grant for their work outside contract hours:
- a. Teachers, including general education teachers, special education teachers, ESL teachers, including teachers working in community-based preschool providers
 - b. Paraprofessionals and teaching assistants, including those working in community-based preschool providers
 - c. Instructional coaches, reading specialists, reading interventionists, including those working in community-based preschool providers

A portion of these funds will be used to stipend leaders and educators from community-based PreK programs so that they can fully participate in professional development, action planning, etc. Please note that for some LEAs, stipends for community-based PreK providers will require the development of a contract between the LEA and the community-based provider.

GEM\$ Budgeting Note

On GEM\$, please budget up to \$20,000 in Object Code 01: Professional Salaries (non-MTRS) for Function Code LDRS (Instructional Leaders), Function Code TCHR (Teachers), and/or Function Code PARA (Paraprofessionals) depending on who will need stipends to complete FY25 PRISM grant programming.

3. **Substitute Coverage funding for educators to support PRISM work during contractual hours:** For the work described above, if substitutes rather than stipends are a more practical approach to engaging all educators in the work of PRISM. If choosing this option, please use a portion (or all) of the \$20,000 available for Stipends, as outlined in section 2 of this document.

GEM\$ Budgeting Note

If budgeting funds for substitute coverage on GEM\$, use Object Code 03: Other Salaries for Function Code TSER (Other Teaching Services).

Future years of PRISM

LEAs awarded PRISM I in FY25 will be able to apply for a continuation into FY26, FY27, FY28, and FY29, *pending funding availability*. Continuation funding is not guaranteed. FY24 Continuation funding is based on available funds and progress through PRISM activities. If awarded continuation grants, PRISM awardees will receive funding to support the following components of the early literacy multi-tiered system of support, based on local needs and plans. Not all grantees may need or be approved for expenses in every category listed below.

Vendors and Partners

- Professional Development from approved external providers
- High-dosage tutoring partner*
- Collaboration with community-based preschool providers

Materials and Assessments

- Early Literacy assessments, including approved screening assessment, for preschool and for K-3 as needed*
- Other assessments as needed (K-3) for Tier 2/3 instruction
- Tier 2/3 and other supplemental instructional materials (K-3)
- Purchase, transadaptation, and/or development of high-quality curricular materials for dual language programs/schools
- Tier 1 language and literacy instructional materials for public and community-based preschool providers
- Preschool language and emergent literacy screening assessments and other assessments as needed for preschool

Staff Costs

- Salary support*
 - The PRISM grant will fund a significant portion of the cost of up to one position for each participating school in the roles of literacy coach, reading specialist, reading interventionist, or similar.
- Educator Stipends to cover work beyond contractual time to participate in grant-related activities, as outlined above. The following educators can be stipended from this grant for their work outside contractual hours:
 - Teachers, including general education teachers, special education teachers, ESL teachers, including teachers working in community-based preschool providers
 - Paraprofessionals and teaching assistants, including those working in community-based preschool providers
 - Instructional coaches, reading specialists, reading interventionists, including those working in community-based preschool providers
- Substitute costs if substitutes rather than stipends are a more practical approach to engaging all educators in professional development.
- Stipends for members of the PRISM Leadership Team, including both public and community-based preschool leaders

* LEAs awarded PRISM I grants will be expected to gradually assume responsibility for funding these components of the early literacy multi-tiered system of support. The PRISM grant will fund some of the costs listed above at a decreasing annual proportion over 5 years, beginning with 100% of the cost in the first year, and decreasing each year as the LEA gradually assumes responsibility for necessary, ongoing expenses. For instance, the PRISM grant will provide funds for 100% of the cost of the early literacy screening assessment in the first year, 75% in the second year, 50% in the third year, and 25% in the fourth year. LEAs will be expected to take these costs on as part of regular operating budgets to fulfill grant expectations and to continue in the program for the maximum 5 years. This requirement may be waived by the Commissioner in exigent circumstances.