

MEMORANDUM

To: All Principals, Assistant Principals, Literacy Coaches, and Pre-K - K Teams
From: Dr. Marcia Oglesby, Director, Grants & Partnerships
Through: Mrs. Jennifer Caracciolo, Interim Chief DCEIP
Date: October 3, 2025
Subject: *Funding Focus Friday:* Early Literacy Alignment Mini-Grants - Round 4

The Georgia Foundation for Early Care and Learning and the Georgia Foundation for Public Education have launched Round 4 of the [Early Literacy Alignment Mini-Grants](#). This initiative is designed to enhance partnerships with quality-rated childcare providers and align literacy practices with those of Pre-K and kindergarten students. Grant awards of up to \$5,000.

At-a-Glance

- **Purpose:** Joint professional development to align early literacy practices in childcare and elementary schools for smoother Pre-K to kindergarten transitions.
- **Amount/Term:** Up to \$5,000 over six months
- **Timeline:** Apply by Oct. 31, 2025. Implementation: Early Dec. 2025-May 31, 2026.
- **Eligibility:** Principal/Assistant Principal applicants must partner with at least one quality-rated local childcare provider.
- **Apply:** Online via the [Early Literacy Alignment Mini-Grant portal](#).

Project Ideas that Address Early Literacy Gaps

- **Cross-Setting PD Cycle:** Joint Pre-K/K sessions to practice common phonemic awareness routines, dialogic read-alouds, and shared writing mini-lessons—followed by brief implementation and feedback huddles.
- **Learning Walks + Coaching:** Paired observation days (provider + school) using shared look-fors, micro-coaching, and a rubric to tighten classroom alignment.
- **Pre-K→K Transition Toolkits:** Social stories, visual schedules, and August quick-start guides; align screening conversations and warm handoffs.
- **Family “Bridge to K” Workshops:** Co-hosted events modeling at-home literacy games and read-aloud strategies; include take-home kits & transition expectations.
- **Early Literacy Alignment Institute** (1–2 Saturdays): Co-planning scope/sequence, transition checklists, and shared progress-monitoring artifacts.

Action Steps

- Identify a quality-rated provider in your feeder pattern and secure a *Letter of Support (*Sample Template Below*)
- Co-design a concise PD plan (Dec-May) with clear roles
- Submit your application by October 31, 2025

For more information about the mini-grants, [CLICK HERE](#). To find Quality Rated partners, see [CLICK HERE](#). To apply, [CLICK HERE](#). For program inquiries, contact Laura Wagner, executive director of the Foundation for Early Care + Learning, by calling 404-823-4062 or emailing her at Laura.Wagner@decal.ga.gov.

Don't forget to review and follow the [DCSD Grant Guidelines](#) and work with [Grants & Partnerships](#) to coordinate the next steps. We are here to support you in shaping your ideas

and strengthening your submissions. To begin your application, have questions answered, or get experienced advice, email us at grantsandpartnerships@dekalbschoolsga.org. Thank you from the DCSD Grants and Partnerships Team:

Dr. Marcia Oglesby, <i>Director</i>	Mrs. Libritta Anderson Griffin, <i>Coordinator II</i>
Dr. Donald Porter, <i>Lead Grant Strategist</i>	Ms. Demetric Crittle, <i>Coordinator</i>
Ms. Tanya Arrington, <i>Strategic Partners Manager</i>	Ms. Winona Maolud, <i>Administrative Assistant</i>

Sample Letter of Support Template for Quality Rated Centers
(Print on center letterhead)

Date: (XXXXXXX)

To: Early Literacy Alignment Mini-Grants Review Committee
Re: Letter of Support for (XXXXXXXXXXXX) Elementary School

Dear Review Committee,

On behalf of (Center Name and Quality Rated Star Level ID), I affirm our commitment to partner with (Principal/Assistant Principal Name) at (Elementary School) on the Early Literacy Alignment Mini-Grant (Round 4).

Partnership Scope (Dec 2025–May 31, 2026): (Use Any/All/Other Examples as Appropriate)

- Professional Learning: We will participate in (#) joint PD sessions focused on [e.g., phonological awareness, dialogic reading, shared writing, transitions] and implement agreed routines in our Pre-K classrooms.
- Learning Walks/Coaching: We will host (#) cross-site observations and feedback huddles to align instructional look-fors.
- Family Engagement: We will co-host (#) “Bridge to K” events, providing demonstrations and take-home literacy activities.
- Data & Reflection: We will share non-identifiable implementation artifacts (e.g., PD attendance, look-for checklists, reflection notes) to monitor progress.
- Point of Contact: (Name, Title, Email, Phone) will coordinate schedules, staff participation, and materials.

(Explain Capacity and Alignment) Our center serves (#) children ages (range) and currently implements (curriculum/practice). This project aligns with our improvement goals in (e.g., print concepts, vocabulary, routines) and supports a smoother transition for rising kindergarteners entering (Elementary School).

We appreciate your consideration and look forward to strengthening school-community alignment for early literacy success.

Sincerely,
(Authorized Signer’s Name), (Title)
(Center Name and Quality Rated Star Level ID)