COLORADO
Department of Education

2026 | 2027

Comprehensive Early Literacy Grant (ELG)

Kick-Off



ELG Team & Support

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Contact me for:
Grant requirements • budgets & funding • GAINS • reporting • general ELG questions
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A Few Quick Notes

Questions: Email Whitney as they come up – no live Q&A today

Chat: Public to all participates; please no questions in the chat

Slides: Links are active; feel free to page through the deck and select Sync to Presenter to return to the current slide

After the webinar: Slides and recording will be posted to the Comprehensive ELG website

Today’s Agenda

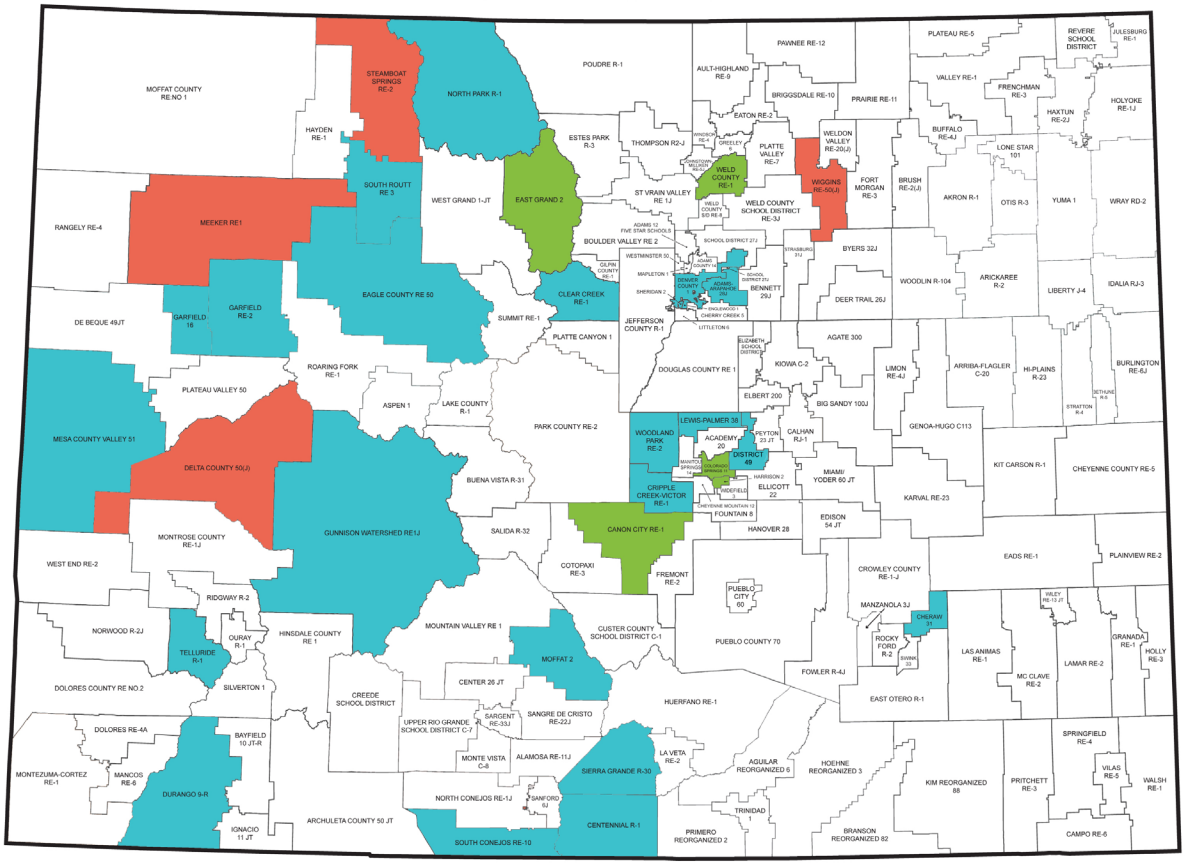
01 | Welcome & ELG Overview

02 | Grant Requirements & Implementation

03 | Budget, Funding & Reporting

04 | Support & Resources

ELG Across Colorado | 2026 -27



Cohort 6

Sustainability Year

Cohort 7

Year 3 of 4-year ELG Cycle
Consists of 14 schools from 8 districts in 5 of 8 regions of the state

Cohort 8

Year 1 of 4-year ELG Cycle
Consists of 27 schools from 21 districts across 6 regions of the state



Purpose of Early Literacy Grant

Purpose of the ELG

Support LEPs in implementing evidence-based systems and practices to improve K-3 reading outcomes.

Evidence-Based Literacy Instruction

Establish instructional systems grounded in scientifically based reading research.

Multi-Tiered Systems of Supports

Strengthen MTSS to reduce the number of students reading below grade level, including students identified with an SRD.

Educator Knowledge & Capacity

Build the knowledge and skills of teachers, interventionists, and school leaders to improve K–3 reading achievement.

Assessment & Approved Programming

Use READ Act-approved assessments and CDE-approved core and intervention programming to identify needs, monitor progress, and inform instruction.

From Purpose to Practice

The Comprehensive Early Literacy Grant is implemented over a four-year grant cycle.

YEAR 1

BUILD THE FOUNDATION

Assess needs • Establish structures Understand baseline data • Set priorities

COHORT 8

YEAR 2

IMPLEMENT

Put systems into practice • Strengthen coaching • Monitor implementation

YEAR 3

DEEPEN

Use evidence • Refine practices • Increase consistency across classrooms

COHORT 7

YEAR 4

STRENGTHEN & SUSTAIN

Build internal capacity • Strengthen systems • Plan for sustainability

SUSTAINABILITY

CONTINUE THE WORK

Maintain • Embed • Adjust • Continue beyond ELG

COHORT 6

The focus shifts over time, while the core ELG structures remain consistent across implementation.



ELG Requirements

Core ELG Structures

Literacy Coach

Protected coaching and capacity-building support for K–3 implementation.

Implementation Consultant

External implementation support from the CDE-approved Advisory List.

School Leadership Team

A consistent structure for shared leadership, implementation monitoring, and problem solving.

Assessment & Data

READ Act-approved assessment and regular use of data to understand needs and monitor progress.

Instructional Programming

CDE-approved core and intervention programming aligned to evidence-based literacy instruction.

Professional Learning

Ongoing learning connected to implementation needs, coaching, and evidence-based practice.

Literacy Coach

The literacy coach builds educator capacity and supports consistent implementation of evidence-based literacy practices.

COACHING & CAPACITY BUILDING

- Engage teachers in ongoing coaching and support
- Model effective literacy instruction and provide actionable feedback
- Support professional learning based on teacher and student needs

IMPLEMENTATION & DATA

- Support fidelity to approved literacy programming
- Use student data to identify needs and inform coaching priorities
- Align coaching and practices with LET measures

COLLABORATION & SUSTAINABILITY

- Partner closely with the principal, SLT, and Implementation Consultant
- Connect classroom practice to schoolwide literacy goals
- Build internal capacity that can continue beyond the grant

Protect the role: Keep literacy coach time focused on coaching, implementation, and building educator capacity.

Implementation Consultant (IC)

Your IC is an external implementation partner who supports schools in strengthening literacy systems and practices.

ONSITE SUPPORT
1 day / month / school

IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT

- Conduct regular classroom visits and walkthroughs
- Support use of the LET and implementation priorities
- Help monitor progress and identify areas for improvement

COACHING & PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

- Model effective literacy instruction and provide actionable feedback
- Support professional learning based on identified needs
- Use student and implementation data to inform support

COLLABORATION & CAPACITY BUILDING

- Partner with the literacy coach, principal, and SLT
- Tailor support to school and staff needs
- Help build systems and practices that continue beyond the grant

Remember: Your IC supports implementation. Grant requirements, budgets, allowability, and formal approvals should come to CDE.

School Leadership Team (SLT)

The SLT provides shared leadership for schoolwide literacy implementation and continuous improvement.

MONTHLY COLLABORATION

In person • at least monthly

WHO'S AT THE TABLE

- District administrator + building administrator
- K/1 teacher + 2/3 teacher
- Literacy coach + interventionist

WHAT THE TEAM DOES

- Use the LET to assess implementation and identify priorities
- Review student and implementation data
- Align literacy work with schoolwide goals and determine next steps

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

- Partner with the literacy coach and IC
- Monitor progress and adjust strategies
- Support K–3 alignment and shared ownership of ELG implementation

Keep it purposeful: Use SLT time to look at evidence, identify priorities, and move implementation forward.



Monitoring Progress

ELG Goals

ELG uses K–3 student data to monitor progress toward three grant goals.

GOAL 1 | GROWTH

Measures accelerated growth for aggregated K-3 students scoring Well Below Benchmark at BOY

GOAL 2 | PROFICIENCY

Measures student proficiency and the reduction of SRD for K-3 students scoring Below or Well Below benchmark at BOY

GOAL 3 | MOVEMENT

Measures gradual band movement towards proficiency for students scoring below or well below benchmark

TOOLS TO UNDERSTAND YOUR DATA

CDE K–3 AGGREGATED GROWTH DATA

Provided after MOY and EOY data windows
Use to analyze system-wide normed growth → Goal 1

AMPLIFY BENCHMARK TREND REPORT

Matched BOY → MOY/EOY benchmark data
Use to examine proficiency and benchmark movement → Goals 2 & 3

Use these data alongside implementation evidence to identify priorities and guide ELG work.

Literacy Evaluation Tool (LET)

ONGOING USE
Complete Score
Minimum 1x / semester

The LET helps teams evaluate implementation of the schoolwide literacy system—not just student outcomes.

ASSESS

- Examine implementation across the literacy system
- Use evidence to determine current levels of implementation

IDENTIFY

- Identify system strengths and areas for growth
- Connect findings to coaching and implementation priorities

MONITOR

- Revisit the LET throughout the year
- Use snapshots to monitor progress over time
- SLT, coach, and IC use it collaboratively

EOY REQUIREMENT **Submit the completed full LET to CDE at the end of the year.**

Program Reporting

There are a few ways we monitor progress throughout the year.

MIDDLE OF YEAR | MOY

- Check progress toward ELG goals
- Review student data and implementation progress
- Identify adjustments or additional support needed

END OF YEAR | EOY

- Reflect on progress toward ELG goals
- Summarize implementation, outcomes and learning
- Inform priorities for the next grant year

MONTHLY IC SITE VISIT REPORTS

- Completed by IC following each site visit
- Documents support provided, progress and next steps

EOY REQUIREMENT **Submit the completed full LET to CDE at the end of the year.**

CDE Site Visits

CDE SITE VISITS

Each Comprehensive ELG school will receive a CDE site visit during its grant cycle.

An opportunity to see implementation firsthand and connect with school teams.

CDE will communicate directly with schools when it is time to schedule.

COHORT 8 / YEAR 1 **CDE site visits do not occur during Year 1.**



Budgets & Fiscal Reporting

2026-27 Funding Update

PLEASE WAIT TO MAKE BUDGET CHANGES

Do not make changes to your ELG budget until you have received your funds and CDE has notified you to proceed.

FUNDING

- 2026–27 ELG funds will be available once the grant award and funding process is complete.
- Watch for communication from CDE before making budget changes.

NO CARRYOVER

- ELG funds do not carry over into the next fiscal year.
- Plan expenditures carefully throughout the year.

JUNE 30 DEADLINE

- Any ELG funds remaining after June 30 must be returned to CDE.
- Avoid waiting until year-end to make spending decisions.

Questions about funding timing or your budget? Contact CDE before making changes.

Budget & Allowability Reminders

Use your approved budget and cohort-specific RFA as your guide throughout the year.

FOLLOW THE APPROVED BUDGET

- Spend according to your approved ELG budget
- Submit required budget revisions for approval before making changes
- Contact CDE when you're unsure

CHECK ALLOWABILITY

- Funds must directly support K–3 literacy
- ELG funds cannot supplant existing funding
- Detailed allowable and non-allowable uses are listed in your cohort-specific RFA

PLAN THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

- Monitor expenditures regularly
- Remember: no ELG carryover
- Don't wait until June to spend remaining funds simply to use the balance

When in doubt, ask first. Funding requests come from the grantee; ICs support implementation; CDE provides budget and allowability approval.

Your ELG Budget Cycle

Budgets and financial reporting move through a predictable cycle each fiscal year.

1

INITIAL BUDGET

Approved at the start of the fiscal year

Establishes your planned use of ELG funds

2

INTERIM FINANCIAL REPORT (IFR)

Submitted in GAINS during the year

Reports expenditures to date

3

FINAL BUDGET

Submitted and approved in GAINS

Reflects your final approved spending plan

4

FINAL EXPENDITURE REPORT (FER)

Submitted in GAINS after year-end

Reports final actual expenditures + required supporting documentation

ANNUAL APPROVAL MATTERS

ELG budgets are reviewed and approved annually. Approval in one year does not guarantee approval in a future year.



Support & Grantee Resources

As You Get Started

A few simple things will help you stay connected and organized throughout the year.

1	**BOOKMARK THE ELG WEBSITE**	Current resources, forms, guidance & deadlines.
2	**KEEP YOUR RFA HANDY**	Your detailed cohort-specific grant reference.
3	**WATCH FOR ELG UPDATES**	Monthly emails communicate deadlines, required actions & updates.
4	**STAY CONNECTED**	Work with your IC and contact CDE when you need help.

Your Go - To ELG Resources

COMPREHENSIVE ELG WEBSITE

- Central hub for ELG resources, forms & guidance
- Budget and reporting resources
- Implementation and assessment resources
- Current information, deadlines & updates

YOUR COHORT - SPECIFIC RFA

- Detailed grant requirements and expectations
- Program reporting questions
- Allowable and non-allowable uses of funds
- Cohort-specific guidance

GRANTEE FORMS & GUIDANCE

- Literacy Evaluation Tool
- Roles & Responsibilities / Assurances
- Contact information updates
- Budget and reporting forms/resources
- Trainings

Additional Resources

Additional tools and guidance are available on the ELG website when you need more detail.

ELAT / AMPLIFY

mCLASS DIBELS 8 and Lectura training & PD

- Assessment windows
- Benchmark and progress-monitoring resources
- Amplify support resources

BILITERACY RESOURCES

- CDE guidance for bilingual and biliteracy program models
- Lectura and DIBELS 8 reporting resources

Who to Contact for What

Start with CDE ELG for grant questions and connections to additional CDE support.

CDE ELG | START HERE — WHITNEY HUTTON

Grant requirements • budgets & funding • allowability • GAINS

Reporting • required submissions • general ELG questions

Whitney can connect you with additional CDE support as needed:

REGIONAL LITERACY CONSULTANTS

Statewide / READ Act literacy support

GRANTS FISCAL & GAINS

Fiscal processes, grant payments & system support

IMPLEMENTATION CONSULTANT | IC

Your ongoing ELG implementation partner

Monthly onsite support and collaboration

Coaching, LET, data & implementation priorities

Works directly with the literacy coach, principal & SLT



CDE Regional Literacy Consultants

Meet the Team

Region ... North Central

... Espinoza

Cohort 7:

... -50*

... (Mundo)

... RE-1*

Cohort 8:

Cheraw 31

... 28J

... Victor RE-1

Stone Creek School

District 49

Denver County 1

Lewis Palmer 38

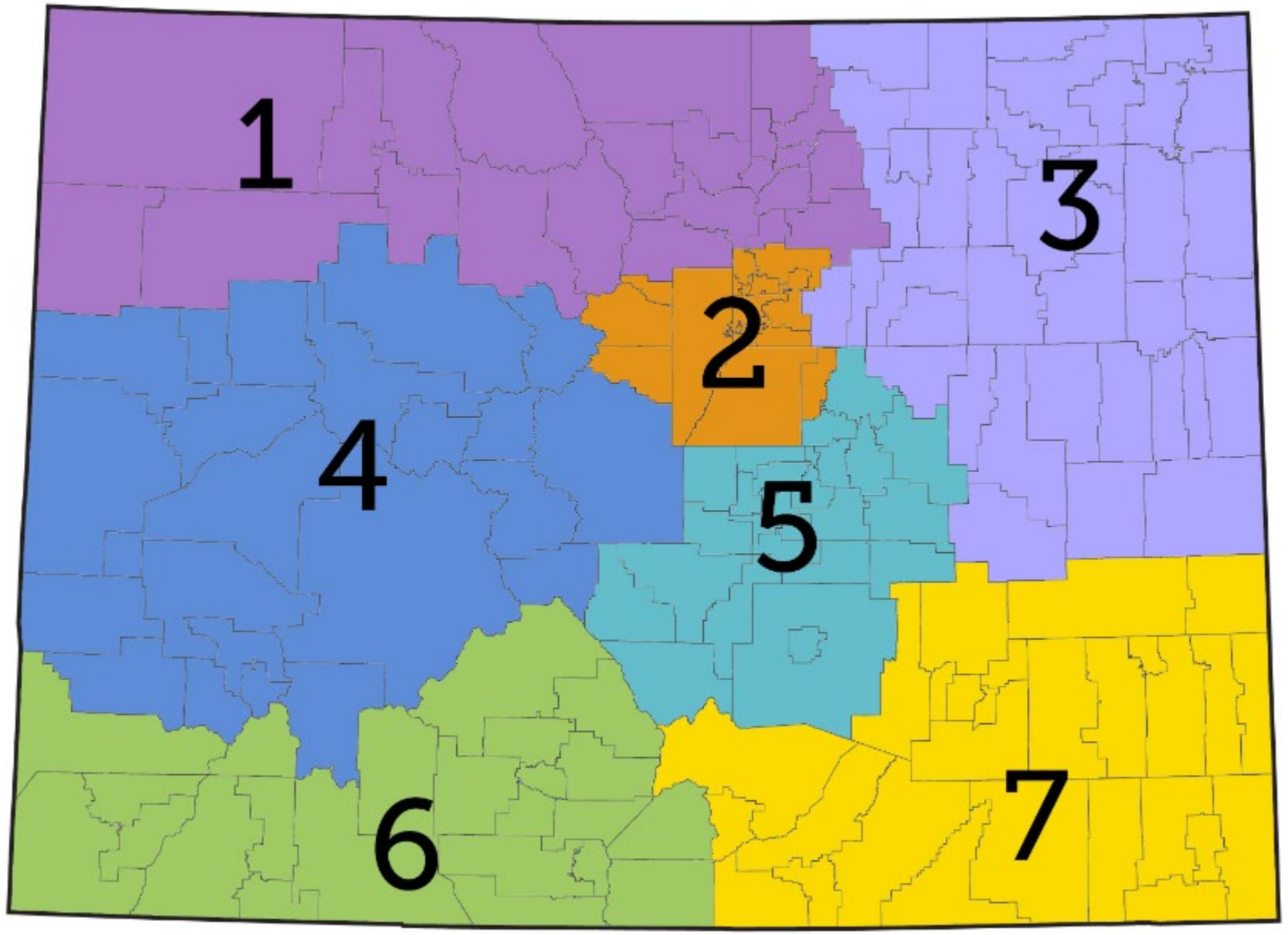
Sheridan 2

Woodland Park RE-2

Garfield RE-2*

Mesa County Valley 51*

Gunnison Watershed



Thank you!!

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