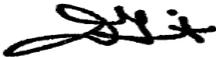


**STRIVING READERS COMPREHENSIVE LITERACY PROGRAM
STATE FORMULA GRANT APPLICATION**

**APPLICATION COVER SHEET
(CFDA 84.371B)**

The State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations pledges its commitment to create or maintain a State Literacy Team with expertise in literacy development and education for children from birth through grade 12 to assist the State in developing a comprehensive literacy plan.

<p>Legal Name of Applicant (State Educational Agency): Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Applicant's Mailing Address: 255 Westminster Street Providence, RI 02903</p>	<p>D.U.N.S. number: 929956563</p>
<p>State Contact for the Striving Readers State Literacy Formula Grant - State Literacy Team</p> <p>Name: Diane Girard Position and Office: Literacy Specialist Office of Instruction, Assessment and Curriculum Contact's Mailing Address: Diane Girard Rhode Island Department of Education 255 Westminster Street, 4th floor Providence, RI 02903</p> <p>Telephone: 401-222-8479 Fax: 401-222-3605 E-mail address: diane.girard@ride.ri.gov</p>	
<p>To the best of my knowledge and belief, all of the information and data in this application are true and correct.</p>	
<p>Name and Title of Authorized Representative (Printed Name): Deborah A. Gist, Commissioner</p>	<p>Telephone: 401-222-8700 E-mail: deborah.gist@ride.ri.gov</p>
<p>Signature of Authorized Representative: </p>	<p>Date: 9-29-2010</p>

Specific Application Contents

1. Does the SEA currently have a State Literacy Team?

No, the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations does not currently have a State Literacy Team as articulated within the Striving Readers Grant Application.

Throughout the years, Rhode Island's literacy teams have convened to reflect the current needs of the state. These teams have worked to ensure that Rhode Island has developed and implemented a PreK-12 Literacy Policy, Personal Literacy Plan Guidelines, high school exit expectations, grade level and span expectations for K-12, Rhode Island's Early Learning Standards and Rhode Island's Reading First Program. It should be noted that all of our literacy teams have received the full support of the Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (RIDE) and further support from the Rhode Island Board of Regents through regulation(s).

Our current Literacy team, the Literacy Education Leadership Council (LELC), has a focus that is threefold:

1. to increase the knowledge and use of our state literacy standards as they influence curriculum, instruction, and local assessment;
2. to clarify and strengthen the role and supports provided by professional development organizations and RIDE; and,
3. to serve as an advisory resources for RIDE and Local Education Agencies (LEAs) facing significant challenges within literacy education.

The LELC is comprised of members from our LEAs (teachers and administrators, K-12), higher education (both private and public institutions), as well as leaders from Rhode Island Educational Organizations who have deep understandings of literacy curriculum, instruction, and assessment. The LELC members were selected based upon nomination and written recommendations. Regretfully, when considering if our LELC could convene as our new State Literacy Team our current representation does not reflect the breadth and depth as required by the United States Department of Education.

RIDE is preparing to begin solicitation for committee members for our new State Literacy Team, per the Striving Reader's Guidelines. RIDE will work in consultation with our existing state literacy teams, LEAs, appropriate state agencies, higher education, educational partners and organizations, as well as various members throughout the divisions at RIDE to reconfigure an all inclusive team to develop the Comprehensive Literacy Plan. It is imperative that each nominee selected for membership to the Rhode Island State Literacy Team meet the necessary requirements for literacy development and education expertise, while also representing a diverse cross section of our community if we are to continue striving towards our goal of world class standards, instruction, and assessments for all our students in Rhode Island. A Selection Committee comprised of key literacy personnel at RIDE will submit recommendations for the

State Literacy Team to the Commissioner of Education. The Commissioner of Education will determine the final composition of the State Literacy Team.

2. Describe how each member of the State Literacy Team meets the requirement to have expertise in the area of literacy development and education for children from birth through grade 12.

Membership to the Rhode Island State Literacy Team (SLT) will begin October 8, 2010* with solicitations for nomination requests. Interested persons will be required to be nominated and submit a resume or curriculum vitae and letter of recommendation to the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) by October 22, 2010. Upon receipt of required elements, the Selection Committee will review all nominations and recommend membership for the SLT to the Commissioner of Education for final approval. RIDE has yet to determine the capacity of the SLT as the selection requires a delicate balance of representation with expertise in many areas of literacy development and education. The Selection Committee will ensure that Rhode Island's SLT will include membership of at least 9 members, representing the following areas of expertise:

- Literacy development and instruction for children in all ages: birth to school entry, kindergarten through grade 5, and grades 6 through 12;
- Managing and implementing an effective literacy program at the school, district, and State levels;
- Evaluation of literacy programs;
- Planning for and implementing a response-to-intervention (RTI) model;
- Screening and performance measurement in the areas of phonological awareness, word recognition, phonics, vocabulary, comprehension, fluency, and writing;
- Validated interventions and instruction for struggling readers, English Learners, and students with disabilities;
- Teacher, coach, and principal professional development; and,
- Teacher preparation and state licensure/accreditation in literacy development and instruction.

*All dates are pending grant approval from the United States Department of Education (USDE).

3. Describe how the State will ensure that the State Literacy Team includes representatives from different agencies and organizations including the SEA, local education agency, higher education and the research community.

The Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) will solicit membership from numerous agencies and organizations to ensure that the expertise requirements of members are met while also coordinating that they represent appropriate literacy experts throughout the state. Rhode Island's existing organizations/teams have members who clearly reflect the outlined criteria and it will be fundamental that we tap these strong leaders for our State Literacy Team (SLT). The Literacy Education Leadership Council (LELC) is one example of how RIDE constructed a

literacy team to include members of existing organizations who clearly reflect expertise in literacy.

The Rhode Island SLT Selection Committee will confirm that the team includes representatives from RIDE, local education agencies (LEAs), early childhood, higher education and the research community. Additionally, RIDE recognizes the need to ensure that the SLT does not become unwieldy in size and therefore, has proposed that drafts of the Comprehensive Literacy Plan (CLP) be made available to all interested constituency groups for feedback, thus widening the circle of support and involvement within Rhode Island's CLP.

4. Describe how the State Literacy Team will assist the SEA in developing a comprehensive literacy plan and what other functions it may serve.

Rhode Island's State Literacy Team (SLT) along with the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE), under the direction of the State Literacy Team Coordinator, will develop Rhode Island's Comprehensive Literacy Plan (CLP). The CLP will be built upon a solid foundation of the core documents that currently exists within Rhode Island. The Rhode Island Basic Education Plan (BEP), PreK-12 Literacy Policy, Personal Literacy Plan Guidelines, Rhode Island's Race to the Top Grant Award and RIDE's Strategic Plan will support our work focusing on closing achievement gaps, strengthening supports for ELLs, developing content area literacy, and addressing early childhood.

It is anticipated that the work for Rhode Island's CLP will begin immediately in late October 2010 and continue intensely and frequently through March 2011 in preparation for submission of the required draft CLP to the United States Department of Education (USDE) in February 2011. With a tight timeline between grant approval and the deadline for the draft CLP, it is anticipated that the SLT will divide into small work groups to focus on specific areas of need for Rhode Island's CLP. These work groups will present their draft documents to the SLT for feedback, revision, and approval. If the SLT requests feedback and/or revision from the work group, the work group may submit/present subsequent revisions of their document.

Upon completion of Rhode Island's CLP draft, the SLT will continue to serve as an advisory to the RIDE regarding literacy development and education for children from birth through grade 12 and increasing the knowledge and use of our state literacy standards as they influence curriculum, instruction, and local assessment.

5. Describe how the State Literacy Team will be managed and how decisions will be made.

Rhode Island's State Literacy Team (SLT) will have a designated Coordinator who is responsible for managing all team meetings and activities as related to the development of Rhode Island's Comprehensive Literacy Plan (CLP). The SLT will convene approximately once a month (or as needed) until completion of the draft CLP. Upon completion of the draft CLP, the SLT will continue to meet on a quarterly basis.

The decision process for the SLT will consist of two tiers:

Tier I: Decisions will be made by consensus with the members of the SLT who are in attendance at the meeting/work sessions. It will be agreed upon that decisions once made on any matter will not be resurrected again on subsequent agendas due to a member's absence. When consensus is not achieved, decisions will be resolved by the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) in consultation with the SLT Coordinator.

Tier II: The overall design or presentation of Rhode Island's Comprehensive Literacy Plan (CLP) will be within the purview of RIDE's Office of Instruction, Assessment and Curriculum. It is essential that the CLP be reflective of RIDE's Strategic Plan. Therefore, the draft CLP will be presented by the SLT in its advisory capacity, to the Chief of Educator Excellence and Instructional Effectiveness who will present decisions and/or products to the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education for final approval.

6. Describe how the State will coordinate work of the State Literacy Team with other related teams, such as the Early Childhood Advisory Council, the Title I Committee of Practitioners, and State higher education committees.

The Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) will coordinate the work of the State Literacy Team (SLT) with our educational partners (e.g. Rhode Island Early Learning Council, ELL State Advisory Board, Title I Directors, Rhode Island Special Education Advisory Council, and the Board of Governors for Higher Education) by including appropriate representatives of these key teams within our SLT. Additionally, an email list-serve of chairpersons and/or SEA members of the various councils/organizations (e.g. Rhode Island School Superintendents' Association, Rhode Island Reading Association, Rhode Island Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, Rhode Island Educational Media Association, Rhode Island Parent Information Network) will be maintained with periodic updates as appropriate to ensure coherency and transparency as we move towards completion of the draft Comprehensive Literacy Plan (CLP).

Specific and deliberate connections will be made to unite the work of the SLT and the objectives of literacy teams across the state. It is essential to demonstrate how the CLP supports and compliments current work. Furthermore, as the draft CLP evolves, clarification of roles and responsibilities may be established as they pertain to literacy throughout all literacy teams. It is essential that all literacy teams throughout the state of Rhode Island maintain congruency towards increasing our students' literacy.

STATE LITERACY TEAM MEMBERSHIP ASSURANCES

Directions: Please insert requested information in the shaded areas (may go over one page).

The State Educational Agency assures the following:

1) The State Literacy Team will consist of a minimum of nine members with expertise in literacy development and education for children from birth through grade 12.

2) The State Literacy Team will include, at a minimum, individuals with expertise in --

- Literacy development and instruction for children in the following age/grade levels:

- Birth to school entry
- Kindergarten through grade 5
- Grades 6 through 8
- Grades 9 through 12

- Managing and implementing an effective literacy program at the school, district, and State levels
- Evaluation of literacy programs
- Planning for and implementing a response-to-intervention model that includes utilization of universal screening, multiple tiers of instruction, early intervening services, validated interventions, and student progress monitoring to inform decision-making
- Screening and performance measurement in the areas of phonological awareness, word recognition, phonics, vocabulary, comprehension, fluency, and writing
- Validated interventions and instruction for struggling readers, English Learners, and students with disabilities
- Teacher, coach, and principal professional development
- Teacher preparation and state licensure/accreditation in literacy development and instruction

3) The State Literacy Team will also include the following members and/or requirements: Any additional Literacy experts that the State Literacy Team Selection Committee deems necessary after all recommendations and resume/vitae's are reviewed to provide a dynamic and cohesive team.

4) The SEA will submit a copy of the State's comprehensive literacy plan developed by the State Literacy Team to the Department by February 1, 2011.

Authorized Representative (Printed Name): Deborah A. Gist, Commissioner	
Signature: 	Date: 9-29-2010

OTHER ASSURANCES AND CERTIFICATIONS

The State authorized representative assures or certifies the following:

- The State will comply with all applicable assurances in OMB Standard Forms 424B (Assurances for Non-Construction Programs), including the assurances relating to the legal authority to apply for assistance; access to records; conflict of interest; merit systems; nondiscrimination; Hatch Act provisions; labor standards; flood hazards; historic preservation; protection of human subjects; animal welfare; lead-based paint; Single Audit Act; and the general agreement to comply with all applicable Federal laws, executive orders and regulations.
- With respect to the certification regarding lobbying in Department Form 80-0013, no Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the making or renewal of Federal grants under this program; the State will complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying," when required (34 C.F.R. Part 82, Appendix B).
- The SEA agrees to the State plan certifications in 34 CFR 76.104.
- The State will comply with the following provisions of Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR), as applicable: 34 CFR Part 76 -- State-Administered Programs; 34 CFR Part 77 -- Definitions that Apply to Department Regulations; 34 CFR Part 80 -- Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements to State and Local Governments, including the procurement provisions; 34 CFR Part 81 -- General Education Provisions Act—Enforcement; 34 CFR Part 82 -- New Restrictions on Lobbying; 34 CFR Part 85 -- Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension (Nonprocurement).

Authorized Representative (Printed Name): Deborah A. Gist, Commissioner	
 Signature of Authorized Representative:	Date: 9-29-2010