

# Multilingual Learners State Funding Formula Aid

*Guidance for FY2025*

*September 27, 2024*



**RIDE** Rhode Island  
Department  
of Education

## Section 1: Multilingual Learner (MLL) State Funding Overview

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Rhode Island has seen the largest growth of MLL students in the nation over the past decade, with twice as many MLL students enrolled in SY23-24 compared to SY13-14. This growth has been seen across the entire state, with some communities outside of the urban core seeing 300%+ increases in MLL students.

Given the growing student population, RIDE created the [Blueprint for Multilingual Learner Success](#) and its accompanying [Strategic Plan](#) to help provide local education agencies (LEAs) a clear roadmap to improve services and outcomes for MLLs. RIDE has also consistently advocated for more MLL funding for LEAs.

To help schools better serve the growing number of MLLs, Rhode Island started providing additional state funding for MLL in FY2017, when the Multilingual Learners Categorical fund was established. For FY25, the MLL funding increased to \$29.5 million and will be now directly integrated into the State Formula Education Aid, streamlining the funding process and ensuring sustained and predictable funds for MLLs. This growth in funding reflects the state's commitment to supporting the increasing MLL population.

Below is the exact statutory language from R.I. GEN. LAWS § 16-7.2-3 (A)(2)(ii) that was enacted as part of the FY25 budget.

*Multiplying a multilingual learner (MLL) factor of twenty percent (20%) by the core instruction per-pupil amount described in subsection (a)(1) of this section, applying that amount for each resident child identified in the three lowest proficiency categories using widely adopted, independent standards and assessments in accordance with subsection (f)(1) of this section and as identified by the commissioner and defined by regulations of the council on elementary and secondary education. Local education agencies shall report annually to the department of elementary and secondary education by September 1, outlining the planned and prior year use of all funding pursuant to this subsection to provide services to MLL students in accordance with requirements set forth by the commissioner of elementary and secondary education. The department shall review the use of funds to ensure consistency with established best practices.*

## Section 2: Recommended Use of Funds

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In alignment with the new statutory requirements, RIDE is providing guidance to encourage Local Education Agencies (LEAs) use of funds with aligned established best practices.

RIDE urges LEAs to use the MLL Formula Aid to enhance and innovate existing MLL programs. Given the increased funding to LEAs as well as growing needs of MLLs, RIDE urges LEAs to use these funds as supplements (not replace) current expenses by LEAs.

Furthermore, when allocating MLL Formula Aid funds, RIDE urges LEAs to align the use of the funds to their LEA Strategic Plan and/or School Improvement Plans. In particular, LEAs should consider how the funds may be used to achieve measurable improvements in English Language Proficiency (ELP) and academic outcomes for MLL students.



Below is an expansive list that highlights some of the best practices to which RIDE urges LEAs align spending plans. The list includes, but is not limited to, the examples below:

### **Student Services**

- MLL dual/concurrent enrollment or early college programs
- Student support services, such as wraparound services or services to increase MLL student attendance and Social and Emotional Learning (SEL)
- Family and student engagement activities
- Translation and interpretation services to supplement local budget

### **Program Expansion**

- Expansion of Instructional program models for MLLs.
- MLL early learning program development

### **Supports to Educators**

- Increase capacity of multilingual educators and English to Speakers of Other Language (ESOL) certified teachers
- Substitute compensation while educators are engaging in MLL professional development
- Professional learning, endorsement or certifications pathways of any staff member to better serve MLL students
- MLL educator and administrator pipeline development programs

### **Systems Supports**

- Improving student academic and language intervention services aligned to Multitiered Systems of Support (MTSS)
- MLL Instructional materials and supplies
- Instructional technology to support MLL students
- Salaries for MLL educators, administrators and paraprofessionals to expand and enhance MLL services
- MLL targeted curriculum development, purchase, and associated professional development



## Section 3: Instructions for Reporting

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RIDE is providing the following instructions to meet the requirements and has made efforts to simplify the reporting process to help LEAs use these funds to support best practices for immediate and long-term impact for MLL students.

### Planned Use of Funds (Required for the FY25 Reporting Cycle)

To ensure transparency and proper allocation, LEAs are required to submit a detailed **Planned Use of Funds** budget report using the spreadsheet provided. RIDE hopes this approach provides a streamlined method for reporting funding and highlighting best practices for how these funds will be used, compared to the prior detailed categorical funding spreadsheet.

To help build alignment between best-practices and fiscal reporting, this guidance and the subsequent spreadsheet includes specific UCOA codes and breakdown of planned expenditures. MLL Directors should be part of the LEA process in allocating funds and should sign off the spreadsheet for best practices. These spreadsheets will subsequently be reviewed by RIDE for adherence to best practices and compliance with state requirements.

Given the first year of implementation, RIDE is requesting that The Planned Use of Funds spreadsheet must be submitted annually to RIDE no later than October 31<sup>st</sup>.

Completed Planned Use of MLL Funds spreadsheets must be emailed to [ucoa@ride.ri.gov](mailto:ucoa@ride.ri.gov).

If LEAs have any programmatic questions as it pertains to best-practices and allowable use of funds, RIDE should contact [flavia.moleabaker@ride.ri.gov](mailto:flavia.moleabaker@ride.ri.gov).

### Prior Year Actual Use of Funds (Required Starting for the FY26 Reporting Cycle)

Starting in FY2026, in addition to the Planned Use of Funds Report, LEAs must submit a Prior Year Actual Use of Funds Report by September 1<sup>st</sup>. Completed Prior Year Actual Use of MLL Funds spreadsheets must be emailed to [ucoa@ride.ri.gov](mailto:ucoa@ride.ri.gov).

## Section 4: UCOA Guidelines for Reporting Uses of MLL State Formula Aid Funds

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To help ensure reporting of best practices and alignment with fiscal reporting, LEAs should plan and report expenditures using UCOA codes. The UCOA codes included in this section will allow better tracking and reporting of MLL expenditures. The codes listed here also appear on the provided spreadsheet for ease of use. The amount of available funds for each LEA has been prepopulated into the provided spreadsheet.

### Fund Number

- Please use fund number 10000000 – General Fund

### Program

- All expenditures should be reported using Program 40.



- **Bilingual/ESL Education** Programs activities for students from homes where the English language is not the primary language spoken.

**Subject**

- All expenditures must be reported using Subject 0603 – MLL (Formula Aid).
- This subject was specifically created to track the use of the Multilingual Learner Funds included in the foundation education aid. The subject segment, with its clear purpose of identifying the Multilingual Learner Funds, will be used, and LEAs will report the planned use and actual use of the funds using Subject 0603.

**Location**

The Location represents either a specific school, a department, or a functional activity within an LEA. While there are no restrictions on the location expenditures, funds are to be spent on instruction and instructional support which usually happens at the different school locations.

Location Code	Location Description
03	Elementary Schools
04	Middle Schools
05	High Schools
06	Alternative Schools/Programs
09	Preschools (in District)
23	Summer School - Elementary Schools
24	Summer School - Middle Schools
25	Summer School - High Schools
33	After School - Elementary Schools
34	After School - Middle Schools
35	After School - High Schools
43	Before School - Elementary Schools
44	Before School - Middle Schools
45	Before School - High Schools

## Function

The uses of the MLL funds include instruction and instructional support activities for MLL students. Activities associated with direct instruction of Multilingual Learners. Funds can be spent on any of the following instruction functions.

Function Code	Title	Description
111	Instructional Teachers	Salaries and related employment costs for ESOL and BDL teachers who interact with MLL students face-to-face or via electronic means.
112	Substitutes	Salaries and related employment costs for
113	Instructional Paraprofessionals	Salaries and related employment costs for paraprofessionals who spend the majority of their time in the classroom with instructional teachers. This also includes Substitute Teachers who are not certified.
121	Pupil-Use Technology and Software	The functions and activities related to technology and software that pupils use related to language instruction using web-based software, other types of software, computers, and similar technological devices.
122	Instructional Materials, Trips, and Supplies	The functions and activities that are intended to be expansive and innovative for the cost of instructional materials, supplies, and staff dedicated to managing the selection of those materials and supplies including textbooks, paper, lab materials, test forms, workbooks, markers, maps, and charts. Also includes the costs of field trips that are instruction related. Food used in instructional programs should be included. Includes instructional materials, field trips, supplies, and instructional equipment used for instructional purposes by teachers and students.



## Instructional Supports

The functions and activities associated with instructional support for the instruction of MLL students include the cost of preparing pupils to learn, preparing teachers to implement MLL instruction, instructors, and administering programs to reap intended results. Funds can be spent on any of the following instructional support functions.

Function Code	Title	Description
211	Guidance and Counseling	The functions and activities for the salaries and related employment costs of school guidance counselors and social workers who provide counseling, and SEL support to the MLL student population, outside of the classroom. Also includes field support coordinators who work directly with guidance counselors.
214	Student Services – Instructional Related	The functions and activities for salaries and related employment costs of student registration attendance services, social work services, report cards, and those activities designed to improve MLL student attendance at school that attempt to prevent or solve student problems involving the home, the school, and the community. Includes learning benchmarks; evaluating the abilities of students; assisting students as they make their own educational and career plans and choices; assisting students in personal and social development. Include costs of Interpreters and Translators utilized for parent contacts that are otherwise not required by federal and state education regulations and outreach programs. Also, includes costs for obtaining background checks for Volunteers (the purpose is related to the welfare and education of students). Includes community outreach services directed at the families of MLL students.
215	Academic Interventions	The functions and activities for salaries and related employment costs of teachers, counselors, and others relating to preparing, maintaining, and discussion of MTSS intervention plans for MLL students. Also, include costs of intervention providers for language, academics, and SEL during the regular school day. Also, include costs for teachers who teach learning remediation skills for all subjects as part of the regular classroom time during the school day. Use this function to track “Evidence-Based Interventions” for which the research design is acceptable, applied quality data has been analyzed by experts, and such data has been peer-reviewed.
221	Curriculum Development	The functions and activities for salaries and related employment costs of staff assigned to improving the MLL curriculum or teaching curriculum concepts to teachers. Includes expenditures for purchased curriculums and purchased curriculum services for MLL instruction.
222	In-Service, Staff Development and Support	The functions and MLL-specific activities for the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ the cost of in-service training and other types of staff development (provided either in-house or by outside providers)</li> <li>➤ teacher mentoring program costs and teacher trainer costs</li> </ul>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ substitute teachers used to cover for teachers who are attending in-service or staff development</li> <li>➤ teachers who train other teachers</li> <li>➤ math and literacy language acquisition and MLL coaches and the value of non-teaching periods for this purpose</li> <li>➤ non-instructional MLL paraprofessionals and aides</li> <li>➤ web-based software system used to track MLL related professional development activities.</li> </ul>
231	Program Management	<p>The functions and activities for the salaries and related employment costs of staff or contract fees of outside specialists who develop, monitor, and maintain defined MLL programs (e.g., MLL Director or Coordinators). This account also includes indirect costs, technical services, office costs, and clerical costs associated with MLL program management activities. This may include, for example, the staff costs of maintaining a LIEP (Language Instruction Educational Program) for MLL students and the clerical effort to maintain the records.</p>

