

Guide To: Independent School Literacy Professional Learning Funding

The purpose of the K-12 Literacy Supports professional learning funding for independent schools is to build the capacity of classroom teachers and support staff to deliver evidence-based literacy instruction and screening for K-3 students and interventions for K-12 students, and to provide information and resources to parents and caregivers to support their child's literacy development.

This guide is intended to help independent schools in determining how to best allocate their professional learning funding by exploring key considerations, outlining available and pending provincial supports and providing contact information for additional support.

*Independent schools will not be required to report on spending to the ministry, but ministry staff will request high-level summary of allocation of the funds (optional reporting) in June 2025 and again in June 2026 in order to better understand the K-12 literacy supports landscape in independent schools.

Early literacy screening is a quick, evidence-based process for identifying students who are at risk for literacy difficulties. It takes place in K-3 classrooms, ideally at multiple points of time throughout the year. Early literacy screening does not result in a diagnosis, but it does help educators to determine additional student needs.

Key Considerations

Acknowledging that different schools have different contexts, challenges and opportunities related to K-12 literacy supports, the following questions and considerations may be helpful in determining how to best allocate professional learning funding to achieve the program's intended aims.

Data – Assessing current state, gaps and opportunities:

1. What does your literacy data (e.g., FSA scores) tell you about how students in your school are doing and where you need to go from here?
 - a) What does the picture look like for different groups of students (e.g., students with disabilities or diverse abilities, Indigenous students, English Language Learners, French Language Learners) and for students in different grade levels?
2. What qualitative data can you gather (or have you gathered) from classroom teachers, support staff, parents and caregivers and other stakeholders to inform your current state, needs and opportunities related to improving literacy outcomes for K-12 students?

Early Literacy Screening and Literacy Interventions:

The goals of the provincial K-12 Literacy Supports initiative include scaling up early literacy screening (for all K-3 students) and enhancing classroom and school-based intervention supports for K-12 students who require additional assistance, including students with learning disabilities. In consideration of these goals:



1. What literacy screening approaches for K-3 are you currently using?
 - a) Which grade levels have implemented literacy screening and which have not?
 - b) Is your school using evidence-based literacy screening/assessment tools that are reliable and valid?
 - c) What are your additional professional learning needs as they relate to literacy screening for K-3 students?
2. How is your school implementing literacy interventions for students in K-12 who need additional support (both for K-3 students identified through the screening process and/or for K-12 students identified through other means)?
 - a) What are your additional literacy intervention needs?
3. What opportunities or resources currently exist in your school or networks to support early literacy screening and interventions?
 - a) Where are there gaps?
4. How will your school communicate with and provide information to parents and caregivers about a) available literacy screening and interventions at school and b) resources and strategies to support their child's literacy at home?

Provincial K-12 Literacy Supports:

1. How can your school plan, consider and leverage provincial supports that are available or coming soon (see *Provincial K-12 Literacy Supports* section below)?

Success and Sustainability:

1. How will your school measure and track outcomes?
2. What processes will your school use to support a) ongoing learning and reflection amongst teachers and support staff and b) continued engagement with partners, Rightsholders, and stakeholders to support continuous improvement?
3. How can your school use this one-time grant funding to create sustainable change in your school in terms of building the capacity of classroom teachers and support staff?

Provincial K-12 Literacy Supports

There are several provincial supports in development within the K-12 Literacy Supports Initiative, which may help to inform and support your school's literacy professional learning planning. These include:

- **Available:** [Brochure for parents and caregivers](#) that includes strategies they can use to support learning at home, what to look for, and who to speak to if they have questions or need support (available in multiple languages).
- **Nov/Dec 2024:** Expansion of Provincial Outreach Program staffing and outreach services to support the capacity building of educators, Group 1 and Group 2 independent schools, public schools and school districts, with a priority focus on effective, evidence-based, and inclusive literacy practices.
 - These include the Provincial Outreach Program for the Early Years and Provincial Outreach Programs for students with disabilities or diverse abilities such as the

Provincial Outreach Program: Deaf & Hard of Hearing (POPDHH) and the Provincial Outreach Program for Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (POPFASD).

- **Spring 2025:** Inventory of evidence-based literacy screeners.
- **Spring 2025:** New workshops and webinars for educators and support staff regarding literacy development and learning disabilities.

Key Contacts & Information

Provincial Outreach Program for the Early Years (POPEY)

- If you are interested in English literacy supports for your school available through Provincial Outreach Program for the Early Years (POPEY), including workshops and resources, please contact POPEY at:
 - Web page: <https://www.popey.ca/>
 - Email: popey@popey.ca
 - Phone: (778) 296-4254

Ministry of Education and Child Care

- If you have questions about the K-12 Literacy Supports Initiative, please contact the ministry at:
 - Email: literacy.supports@gov.bc.ca
 - Email: educ.independentschoolsoffice@gov.bc.ca.
- The ministry has launched a [K-12 Literacy Supports and Learning Disabilities web page](#), which provides literacy information and supportive resources for school/district staff and parents/caregivers.