



---

## **2026-2027 Formative (Interim) Assessment Grant Guidance**

The Indiana Department of Education's (IDOE's) Office of Assessment provides the following guidance to support the Formative (Interim) Assessment Grant. Using formative and interim assessment data can assist schools in providing the most effective support for students. Additional information can be found on IDOE's [Formative \(Interim\) Assessment Grant webpage](#).

### **Vision and Purpose**

Eliciting and analyzing evidence of student learning to guide classroom instruction at the individual student level results in increased academic success. Indiana's Formative (Interim) Assessment Grant provides funding to schools for approved formative (interim) assessment programs, specific universal reading screeners (that meet legislative requirements), and the two preferred universal mathematics screeners for kindergarten through grade two to increase data-driven instructional practices and enrich learning for all students.

[Indiana Code \(IC\) 20-32-5.1-17](#) governs funding set aside for the Formative (Interim) Assessment Grant.

### **Grant Eligibility**

All Indiana public school corporations, charter schools, and accredited non-public schools (including Choice scholarship schools) serving students in kindergarten through grade ten are eligible. Schools that successfully submit the grant application will receive funds based on allocation guidelines. This is not a competitive grant.

### **Allowable Uses of Funds**

- Approved mathematics assessment programs (see Appendix A).
- Approved English/language arts assessment programs (see Appendix A).
- Specific approved universal reading screeners (see Appendix A).
- Approved universal mathematics screeners (see Appendix A).
- Professional development and implementation support for and provided by selected, approved assessment programs offered through the program vendor.

## Unallowable Uses of Funds

Funds may only be used for approved assessment programs and related professional development. Unallowable uses of funds include (but are not limited to):

- General school supplies (i.e., computers, headphones, pencils, calculators, or similar).
- Staff salaries or stipends.
- Incentives, rewards, or gifts for students or staff.
- Encumbering funds for future use in the upcoming school year.

## ILEARN Checkpoints

All schools are required to administer ILEARN Checkpoints to students in grades three through eight. ILEARN Checkpoints are 100% aligned to Indiana's Academic Standards and proficiency expectations, and they provide data for schools to check student performance throughout the year. Instructional and Assessment Frameworks support instruction and intervention efforts. Additional assessments for these students are not required. When discussing the possibility of additional interim assessments for grades three through eight, schools must be thoughtful and have rationale for why it may be appropriate to provide. Schools may decide that students receiving intensive intervention or off-grade level support who may need additional monitoring, could benefit from additional formative (interim) assessments.

ILEARN Checkpoints and Summative include local, state, and national percentile rankings which can be used for high ability identification and other reports or applications as needed.

- If a school does not plan to administer additional interim assessments in addition to the ILEARN Checkpoints, do not request funds through the application JotForm for the applicable grade levels.
- IDOE will only approve the use of Formative Assessment Grant funds for up to 10% of a corporation's student population for grades three through eight.
- Professional development for the ILEARN Checkpoints is provided by the state at no cost. Schools may not apply for formative funds specifically to pay for professional development for ILEARN Checkpoints.
- Formative assessment funds may not be used on Tier 2 curricular vendor programs (i.e., IXL and Edmentum) for the ClearFrame API integration at this time per governing legislation.

All students in grades three through eight will participate in the ILEARN Through Year Assessment System which includes three Checkpoints and Summative. The ILEARN Checkpoints are intended to be administered after students have received instruction on the standards assessed. Schools are able to track mastery over the course of the year through the administration of the ILEARN Checkpoints to inform intervention or reinforcement of skills before the Summative assessment.

Corporations and non-public schools may receive funds, upon request, for up to 10% of their 2026 student enrollment for grades three through eight. IDOE will determine the 10% threshold for each corporation and non-public school using certified student enrollment data in the [Accredited Non-Public School Enrollment](#) and [Corporation Enrollment by Grade Level](#) reports, available on the [Data Center & Reports](#) webpage.

**Table 1. Funding Allocations by Grade Level**

<b>Grade Levels</b>	<b>Subject Allocations</b>	<b>Estimated Allocation Per Assessment</b>
Kindergarten - Grade Two (Up to 100% of population)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Universal Reading Screener (English/language arts); and</li> <li>2. Universal Mathematics Screener (Mathematics)</li> </ol>	\$8.00 for one subject \$16.00 for two subjects
Grades Three - Eight (Up to 10% of population)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. English/language Arts; and</li> <li>2. Mathematics</li> </ol>	\$8.00 for one subject \$16.00 for two subjects
Grades Nine - Ten (Up to 100% of population)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. English/language Arts; and</li> <li>2. Mathematics</li> </ol>	\$8.00 for one subject \$16.00 for two subjects

### **Kindergarten through Grade Two**

Schools may apply for up to two subject allocations for students in kindergarten through grade two – one for the required universal reading screener and one for the required universal mathematics screener.

The estimated allocation per student for grades kindergarten through two per assessment for the 2026-2027 school year is anticipated to be near or at \$8.00. Students in kindergarten through grade two could receive allocations for a total of near or at \$16.00 per student for two subject areas. The total amount may be higher or lower based on the total number of participants.

Applicants will indicate whether funds are being requested for kindergarten through grade two in the application through a checkbox. If selected, IDOE will automatically calculate allocations based on [certified student enrollment data](#) from the previous school year. Applicants will not enter specific student counts for these grade levels. Final student counts will be included on the grant distribution list. If enrollment information is not available because the school is newly established or the grade level is new, applicants should contact IDOE for support in completing the application.

### **High Ability for Kindergarten and Grade Two**

Students in kindergarten and grade two may be pre-screened for High Ability Achievement criteria using an approved universal reading and mathematics screener. Students who scored at or above the 80th national percentile in either the math or reading universal screener will participate in the high ability achievement assessment. (Note: All students should participate in an approved high ability identification assessment for ability.)

**Schools must first use kindergarten and grade two allocations on approved universal reading and mathematics screeners before applying remaining funds towards a formative assessment grant eligible High Ability Achievement test.** If a school administers a formative assessment grant eligible High Ability Achievement test, then **remaining** Formative Assessment Grant funds from the school's K-2 allocations can be used to pay for the assessment. Schools must refer to the Guidance for the Intersection of [Universal Screening and High Ability Achievement Testing in Kindergarten and Grade Two](#) for more information.

### **Grades Three through Eight**

Schools may apply for up to two subject allocations for up to 10% of the student enrollment of a specific grade level for students in grades three through eight for English/language arts and mathematics. IDOE will automatically identify the 10% threshold using certified 2026 grade level enrollment data to ensure compliance with the 10% limit. The **estimated** allocation per student for grades three through eight for the 2026-2027 school year is anticipated to be near or at \$8.00. Students in grades three through eight could receive funds for two subject areas, English/language arts and mathematics for a total of near or at \$16.00 per student for 10% of the student enrollment. The total amount may be higher or lower based on the total number of program participants.

Applicants will indicate whether funds are being requested for grades three through eight in the application through a checkbox. If selected, IDOE will automatically calculate allocations based on certified student enrollment data from the previous school year. Applicants will not enter specific student counts for these grade levels. Final student counts will be included on the grant distribution list, and applicants should anticipate receiving funds based on 10% of enrollment for these grade levels and plan accordingly. If enrollment information is not available because the school is newly established or the grade level is new, applicants should contact IDOE for support in completing the application.

### **Grades Nine through Ten**

Schools may apply for up to two subject allocations (mathematics and/or English/language arts) for students in grades nine through ten. The **estimated** allocation per student for grades nine and ten for the 2026-2027 school year is anticipated to be near or at \$8.00. Students in grades nine and ten could receive funds for two subject areas, English/language arts and mathematics for a total of near or at \$16.00 per student. The total amount may be higher or lower based on the total number of program participants.

Applicants will indicate whether funds are being requested for grade nine and ten in the application through a checkbox. If selected, IDOE will automatically calculate allocations based on [certified student enrollment data](#) from the previous school year. Applicants will not enter specific student counts for these grade levels. Final student counts will be included on the grant distribution list. If enrollment information is not available because the school is newly established or the grade level is new, applicants should contact IDOE for support in completing the application.

## **Fiscal Responsibility**

Schools must have a plan for how they will use funds prior to applying. Funds that are distributed and then returned can no longer be used for education purposes. Corporations and non-public schools are encouraged to utilize all provided funds to the fullest extent possible, as funds cannot be encumbered for future use. Corporations and non-public schools may start returning unused funds early January 2027 if early return of funds is appropriate. Any funds that remain unused must be returned by Friday, June 4, 2027. An extension for returning unused funds may be requested if an invoice is scheduled after May June 4 of the 2026-2027 school year. Extensions may not exceed June 30, 2027.

## **Local Contracts**

Funds from this grant are distributed directly to corporations. Corporations and schools will enter into local contracts with their selected assessment program vendor(s) from the approved assessment program list. Corporations may choose to contract with and implement assessments prior to fund distribution; however, the corporation would be responsible for any costs incurred above the final distribution amount. Corporations and schools may choose to enter multi-year contracts with vendors; however, corporations and schools must consider that approval in one year does not guarantee that a vendor will remain approved in future cycles. The preferred universal reading screener and the two universal mathematics screeners will remain approved for three years from their initial approval date.

## **Flexibility**

The level of flexibility differs for formative/interim/benchmark assessment programs, universal reading screener and universal mathematics screener assessment programs.

For formative/interim/benchmark assessments, corporations and schools determine details regarding the use of grant funds. Corporations may determine:

- Participating schools
- Participating grade levels
- Which content areas (mathematics and/or English/language arts) are being assessed
- Which assessment programs are being used for each school/grade level
- When the programs are in use (i.e., when to enter into the contract within the school year, when testing windows occur, etc.)

For kindergarten and grade two, schools must first use kindergarten and grade two allocations on approved universal reading and mathematics screeners before applying remaining K-2 funds towards a formative assessment grant eligible High Ability Achievement test.

For universal reading screeners, corporations must follow the requirements listed in IDOE's [Universal Reading Screening Guidance](#). Effective on July 1 per SEA 199 (2026), schools in which over the course of three (3) consecutive years, fewer than an average of seventy five

percent (75%) of students in the school achieved a valid passing score on IREAD must only request formative (interim) funds for the approved, preferred universal reading screener, Acadience Reading K-6. Contact IDOE's [Literacy Center](#) with questions on reading screener guidance.

For universal mathematics screeners, [Indiana Code 20-32-6.5-2](#) requires all schools (public, charter, and accredited non-public) serving students in kindergarten through grade two to administer one of the two approved universal mathematics screeners.

### Timeline of Important Dates

Corporations and schools should use this timeline of important dates to complete tasks required to participate in this grant opportunity.

Date	Event or Task	Additional Information
May 8 through June 12, 2026	The grant application window is open. The application can be accessed using this <a href="#">link</a> .	Instructions and the link for applying will be published through Dr. Jenner's Weekly Update, the CTC weekly listserv, and on the <a href="#">Formative Assessment Grant website</a> .
June 19, 2026	Distribution list published to schools.	The distribution list is published through Dr. Jenner's Weekly Update and the CTC weekly listserv.
July 15, 2026	Funds distributed to schools on or after July 15, 2026.	Funds are deposited via electronic transfer. Contact the <a href="#">Office of Student Assessment</a> for additional information.
January 11 through June 4, 2027	Final report form is open.	All participating schools must complete a final report verifying use of grant funds. The final report instructions and link will be published through the CTC weekly listserv.
June 4, 2027	Any unused funds must be returned to IDOE.	Unused funds must be returned via the instructions in the Final Report Guidance published through the CTC weekly listserv and the <a href="#">Formative Assessment Grant website</a> .

## **Appendix A: Approved Assessment Programs, Universal Reading Screeners, and Universal Mathematics Screeners**

### **English/Language Arts and Mathematics Assessment Programs:**

- Amira Learning & HMH: Amira Learning Assess ISIP (Grades 3-8)
- Amplify: mCLASS with DIBELS 8th Edition (Grades 3-6)
- College Board: PSAT 8/9
- College Board: PSAT 10
- Curriculum Associates, LLC: i-Ready Inform (Grades 3-8 & Approved for High Ability Achievement K/2)
- Edmentum: Study Island (Grades 3-10)
- Edmentum: Exact Path (Grades 3-8)
- NWEA: MAP Growth (Grades 3-10 & Approved for High Ability Achievement K/2)
- Renaissance Learning, Inc: DnA Indiana Interim Assessment (Grades 3-10)

**Preferred Universal Reading Screener** (*Effective on July 1 per SEA 199 (2026), schools in which over the course of three (3) consecutive years, fewer than an average of seventy five percent (75%) of students passing IREAD must utilize this screener*)

- Acadience Learning: Acadience K-6 Reading

### **Additional Universal Reading Screeners**

- Amira Learning & HMH: Amira Learning Assess ISIP
- Amplify: mCLASS with DIBELS 8th Edition
- Imagine Learning LLC: Imagine+Early Literacy/Dyslexia Screener
- NWEA: MAP Reading Fluency Dyslexia Screener

### **Required Universal Mathematics Screeners for Kindergarten through Grade Two**

- Curriculum Associates, LLC: i-Ready Inform
- Forefront Education: Universal Screeners for Number Sense (USNS)