

# *Alternative Learning Experience (ALE) Accelerating Unfinished Learning Grant Application Questions*

## **Application and Selection Information**

### **Getting Started**

Many students have unfinished learning and exacerbated social emotional needs due to the COVID pandemic. Universal screening can identify a student's unique academic or social emotional needs, and ALE can address those needs through individualization and acceleration. However, many districts face a variety of barriers to providing individualized scheduling and learning plans due to scheduling constraints and funding formula disparities, thus forcing students to retake entire courses or transfer out of district.

This grant initially opened during winter 2022 to provide funding to supplement ALE apportionment based on identified costs necessary to implement this model and achieve desired outcomes. This grant encourages accelerated learning recovery through academic and social emotional screening, individualizing a response via ALE, and providing the funding for school districts who would otherwise be financially disincentivized to offer ALE. This will reduce the impact of retaking entire courses, create an opportunity to keep students enrolled at their neighborhood schools, and get students back on track with their peers in an accelerated timeline.

This grant will reopen in December 2022 for applications with a narrower scope. The goals of the grant remain the same, screening and addressing the individualized and identified learning gaps of students resulting from the effects of the pandemic. However, the proposals that OSPI will review in this round of applications must specifically support activities outside and beyond the scheduled school day or calendar. These may include but are not limited to extending the day, school week, or school year.

Deadline for this round of applications is 5:00 PM Friday, February 3, 2023. Funds for approved grants must be spent by August 31, 2023.

Participant expectations:

- Identify students' unfinished learning through academic and social/emotional screening.
- Develop individualized learning plans that address identified gaps and accelerate learning recovery during extended day, week, or school year models using ALE.



- Demonstrate if and how the program and supplemental funding impacted student outcomes.

#### Eligibility:

This grant is available to public school districts, charter schools, and tribal compact schools in Washington State. Grantees will be identified by a review process based on successful completion of this application, which requires:

- Basic information about your project including participants, location, target population, etc.
- Short essay responses describing your project and its equity alignments.
- Budget, and list of evidence you will collect.

### Selection Process

The goal of this grant program is to provide funding to supplement ALE apportionment for the purpose of accelerating learning recovery using ALE. OSPI is looking for proposals with unique ways of utilizing ALE, those that demonstrate a collaboration between school settings to impact more students, and those that prioritize the needs of underserved student populations.

Each application will be reviewed in three categories: Equity Considerations, Project Design, and Budget and Impact. A complete description of the scoring criteria is available in the Application Scoring Rubric.

The total available grant funding is \$500,000. There is no minimum or maximum budget for individual applicants, but proposals will be closely reviewed in context of the learning that may be achieved and the impact for students.

Applications are due by 5:00 PM on Friday, February 3, 2023.

If your application is approved, next steps may include:

- District commitment to the project.
- Up-to-date local district ALE board policy authorizing ALE.
- District grant program lead will need to complete an iGrants form package.

## Application Questions

### Basic Details

1. School District.
2. Contact information for the grant program lead and their supervisor.
3. Please list any core team members assisting with the implementation of this grant program and include their title/role.

## Project Description

4. Describe the need the COVID-19 pandemic caused within your program, school, or district.
5. What evidence or process did you use to identify the need in your program, school, or district? If you have already implemented a screener, include the universal screener used and screening timelines.
6. Tell us about the target population for this project. Include information on the number of students you anticipate serving and the associated FTE.
7. How does your identification of needs and/or target population align with your district equity statement and/or the [OSPI Equity Statement](#)?
8. The OSPI website includes a [report card](#) for every school and school district in Washington. In the space below, include the link to the report card for your school. The information on your school report card will help inform the student populations served at your location.
9. Describe how will you use the ALE framework to accelerate unfinished learning and address the identified need in your program, school, or district.<sup>10</sup>

## Activities and Budget

10. Download, complete, and upload the budget worksheet provided in the application. Note: **A link to the blank budget worksheet is available in the application form.**

## Data and Evaluation

11. What evidence will serve as the baseline data for your project? (E.g., tell us about the data used to describe the problem you will be addressing).
12. Tell us about the types of evidence you plan to collect to evaluate the project and share when you plan to collect it. What process will you use to reflect on the evidence and adjust your project?

## Additional Details

13. Will this project be implemented at a pre-existing ALE school/program?
14. How familiar are you with the ALE framework ([chapter 392-550 WAC](#))?
15. What additional resources or supports do you need from OSPI to get started with your project?

16. By submitting this application, your project team understands and agrees to the following assurances:

- This grant program is accessible to students with disabilities.
- This grant program will comply with ALE rules in [chapter 392-550 WAC](#) if claiming ALE FTE for student enrollment.
- Any programs offering online courses will also comply with online learning rules in [chapter 392-502 WAC](#).
- The school district remains responsible for complying with all state and federal requirements (e.g., Enrollment reporting expectations and basic education compliance). Participation in this project does not waive any state or federal regulations.
- All funds must be spent by August 31, 2023 in compliance with required reporting and processes for federal and state grants.
- The implementation team will participate in any required networking and professional learning events to the best of their ability.
- The implementation team will meet all reporting requirements. This may include but not be limited to interim and final reports to OSPI on the status of the project, outcomes and student data submissions, and any other federal reporting requirements necessary for ESSER III funding.