



Indiana Department of Education

Dr. Katie Jenner, Secretary of Education

To: Superintendents and Principals

From: Diana Smith, Director of Digital Learning

Date: March 3, 2023

Subject: 2023 Digital Learning Grant

The 2023 Digital Learning Grant offers school corporations the opportunity to lead and support work that is focused on appropriate practices for blended and virtual learning in the areas of supporting teachers new to the field with blended and virtual learning implementation, Universal Design for Learning (UDL), assistive technologies, and digital literacy. Focus should be given to student populations most impacted by the COVID-19 learning disruptions. School corporations interested in applying for grant funds up to \$50,000 may choose one of the following strands, or a combination of strands, to address the needs of their corporation. The application deadline is Friday, March 24, 2023 at 5 p.m. ET.

The Digital Learning Grant is funded by the legislated David C. Ford fund. Please be aware that grant awards can not be finalized until the current legislative session ends in April 2023.

Strand 1: New Teacher Support in Blended and Virtual Instruction

Supporting new teachers entering the field by building capacity for high quality blended and virtual learning instructional practices and strategies (as aligned to the [Educator Standards for Blended and Online Learning](#) and the [Synchronous Virtual Learning Research Findings](#)) by offering professional learning opportunities and creating systems of support.

Strand 2: Corporation Support for Universal Design for Learning

Building teacher capacity and learning of UDL instructional strategies to support blended and virtual learning.

- Entering into a new partnership, or continuing an existing partnership, with a vendor that can provide training and support in UDL appropriate practices.

Strand 3: Support and Purchase of Assistive Technology

The purchase, training, and support of assistive technologies.

- Examples include, but are not limited to, text to speech software and tools, literacy and writing support tools, and accessible screen readers.

Strand 4: Teacher and Student Support for Digital Literacy

Building and/or expanding digital literacy learning opportunities for K-12 educators and students focusing on the blended and virtual learning skills below:*

- Digital citizenship
- Digital collaboration
- Digital design



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- Digital skills
- Digital resources and research
- Digital leadership opportunities

*Corporations applying for the digital literacy strand will be required to choose a vendor who meets the [IDOE approved criteria](#) and to provide data specific to this goal at prescribed intervals during the grant cycle.

Funds can be used to support:

- Costs related to creating support systems for teachers new to the field in your corporation focused on best practices for blended and virtual learning.
- Costs related to hiring trainers and/or speakers knowledgeable in UDL, assistive technologies, and/or digital literacy as it pertains to blended and online learning.
- Administrative costs related to providing teacher stipends for training and extra-curricular clubs/activities, providing substitute teachers for teacher training, providing field experiences for both students and teachers.
- Costs related to offering professional learning opportunities for assistive technologies, UDL and/or digital literacy such as:
 - Hosting events at your school corporation for educators; or
 - Attending conferences.
- Purchasing curriculum and providing training for educators in implementing digital literacy tools with students.

Eligibility

This grant opportunity is open to any Indiana public school corporation. Access the 2023 Digital Learning Grant Application [here](#).

Important Dates:

- **Grant Opens:** Friday, March 3, 2023
- **Grant Information Session:** Wednesday, March 8, 2023
- **Grant Application Deadline:** Friday, March 24, 2023 at 5 p.m. ET
- **Grant Award Notification:** Friday, May 5, 2023
- **Grant Start Date:** Saturday, July 1, 2023
- **Grant End Date:** June 30, 2024

Contact the [Office of Digital Learning](#) with any questions regarding this grant opportunity.