

1 AN ACT relating to classroom libraries and making an appropriation therefor.

2 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

3 ➔SECTION 1. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 158 IS CREATED TO
4 READ AS FOLLOWS:

5 (1) As used in this section, "eligible recipient" means a certified teacher, certified
6 media specialist, reading intervention teacher, or other specialized literacy
7 instructional support personnel:

8 (a) Who is employed in a local public school district or a public charter school;
9 and

10 (b) Whose job duties include teaching reading skills to students in kindergarten
11 through grade five (5).

12 (2) The Classroom Library Grant Program is hereby established to provide science of
13 reading curriculum-aligned books and materials in elementary school
14 classrooms. The Classroom Library Grant Program shall operate under the
15 oversight of the Kentucky Department of Education pursuant to this section.

16 (3) The Kentucky Department of Education shall select a provider to administer the
17 Classroom Library Grant Program under the department's oversight. In
18 evaluating program administrator applicants, the department shall require an
19 applicant to demonstrate experience operating a charitable, project-based
20 platform that:

21 (a) Enables public school teachers to request classroom materials and
22 instructional resources;

23 (b) Reviews requests for compliance with established grant recipient eligibility
24 criteria;

25 (c) Provides item-level reporting of supplies and materials provided;

26 (d) Provides necessary audit documentation; and

27 (e) Delivers approved materials directly to schools or classrooms.

1 (4) The selected administrator shall:

2 (a) Notify eligible recipients of funding availability for Classroom Library
3 Grant Program awards and the process to submit request applications;

4 (b) Review award applications for compliance with established eligibility
5 criteria;

6 (c) Make awards available to applicants who are eligible recipients teaching
7 reading skills to students in the following descending order of priorities,
8 with access to funds for each proceeding priority group subject to total
9 funding availability:

10 1. Kindergarten through grade three (3) in a school with more than forty
11 percent (40%) of students eligible for the federal free and reduced-
12 price lunch program;

13 2. Kindergarten through grade three (3) not included in subparagraph 1.
14 of this paragraph;

15 3. Grade four (4) through grade five (5) in a school with more than forty
16 percent (40%) of students eligible for the federal free and reduced-
17 price lunch program; and

18 4. Grade four (4) through grade five (5) not included in subparagraph 3.
19 of this paragraph;

20 (d) As funds are available for eligible recipients in each priority group, provide
21 eligible recipients with an award of books and other literacy materials:

22 1. In an equivalent amount up to five hundred dollars (\$500) per award
23 cycle;

24 2. That are aligned with the science of reading curriculum appropriate
25 for the student population served by the eligible recipient; and

26 3. Consistent with the request of the eligible recipient in the application.

27 (e) Explore and pursue opportunities to supplement provided funds with gifts

- 1 or donations from individuals, private organizations, or foundations;
2 (f) Permit eligible recipients to request support in excess of the limit in
3 paragraph (d) of this subsection, provided that the administrator may fulfill
4 the request only by utilizing nonpublic funds; and
5 (g) Submit a report to the Kentucky Department of Education by January 15,
6 2028, and each January 15 thereafter until no funds remain, including the
7 number of eligible recipients awarded grants, the role of each eligible
8 recipient, the student population served by each eligible recipient, an item-
9 level reporting of supplies and materials provided, and a summary of the
10 geographic distribution of eligible recipients awarded grants.

11 ➔Section 2. There is hereby appropriated General Fund moneys in the amount of
12 \$5,000,000 in fiscal year 2027-2028 to the Learning and Results Services budget unit
13 under the Kentucky Department of Education for the purpose of implementation of the
14 Classroom Library Grant Program established in Section 1 of this Act. Notwithstanding
15 KRS 45.229, these funds shall not lapse and shall carry forward.