Zoom Meeting Preparation



- Please make sure your phone or computer is muted to minimize background noise.
 - To do this, hover over the bottom left-hand side of your screen and click "Mute."



- Please make sure you have turned off your camera to save bandwidth and prevent any connectivity issues.
 - o To do this, hover over the bottom left-hand side of your screen and click "Stop Video."



• Please submit questions during the presentation in the "Chat" function located on the bottom of your screen.



Educational Excellence Fund (EEF)

FY 2025-2026



Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Housekeeping
- EEF Funding Overview
- Accessing eGMS Security and Grantee Requirements
- EEF Application Overview
- EEF Reporting
- Questions













Education Excellence Fund (EEF)

Home > School & System Leaders > School System Finances > Grants > Education Excellence Fund (EEF)

Background

In 1999, the Louisiana State Legislature created the Millennium Trust to provide for the disposition of proceeds from the tobacco settlement. The same legislation that created the Millennium Trust, Louisiana Revised Statute (LRS) 39:98.1 - 39:98.5, also established the Education Excellence Fund (EEF) as a component of the Millennium Trust.

The Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) is responsible for providing the appropriations and oversight of monies from the Education Excellence Fund with at the first transfer to



LOUISIANA REVISED STATUTE (LRS) 39:98.1 - 39:98.5



EEF Funding Overview



Background

In 1999, the Louisiana State Legislature created the Millennium Trust to provide for the disposition of proceeds from the tobacco settlement. The same legislation that created the Millennium Trust, Louisiana Revised Statute (LRS) 39:98.1-39:98.5, also established the Education Excellence Fund (EEF) as a component of the Millennium Trust. The Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) is responsible for providing the appropriations and oversight of monies from the Education Excellence Fund with the specific purpose of ensuring that all expenditures are used to support "excellence in educational practice."

State law (LRS) 39:98.1-39:98.5 outlines that EEF funds are to be used for:

- Early childhood education programs (birth to four years);
- Remedial instruction and assistance to students who perform poorly on state assessments; or
- Other educational programs approved by the legislature.



Types of EEF Funds

- 1. EEF Regular Account
- 2. EEF Investment Account



EEF Regular Account

The law provides that the annual EEF allocation be distributed according to this formula:

- 85% of the allocation is distributed to city and parish school systems and charter schools based on the number of students in the most recent MFP Budget Letter.
- 15% of the appropriation is distributed to approved non-public schools based on the number of students as reported for the previous school year.
- A Constitutional amendment passed in October 2019 added Thrive Boarding School, LSU Lab School, Southern University Lab School, and the Louisiana Educational Television Authority as eligible entities.

EEF Investment Account

- When the settlement with the tobacco companies was first received, the legislature established investment accounts for each school district. Today, each of the 69 city and parish school systems have investment accounts.
- These accounts are viewed as savings accounts. The law provided that the school systems had sole authority over the use of these funds.
- These funds accrue interest and are disbursed upon the request of the school system to supplement their annual EEF allocation.



EEF Funding

- Never expires,
- Unspent funds carry over to the following year,
- Recipients can choose one option each year:
 - Apply for all funds available.
 - Apply for only some of the funds available.
 - Not apply for any of the funds and allow funds to rollover to the following year.

EEF Funding (continued)

- Once the legislature approves the applications, recipients are "paid" the full amount "up front" through a one time direct payment.
- No reimbursement requests (RRs) are required.
- Recipients can expend EEF funds throughout the year on the activities described in their plan.
- One Final periodic expenditure report (PER), also referred to as the 6/30 PER, is required.



EEF Funding

Please note: EEF funding is **dependent on interest earned**; therefore, the allocations that will be visible in the EEF application **may not be final**.

- The potential exists for an adjustment to the EEF allocation in January 2025 and January annually thereafter.
- The Revenue Estimating Conference (REC) examines proceeds from interest, and provides the total amount of EEF revenue available. This occurs in December of each year.
- If adjustments to the 2025-26 EEF Allocations are needed, the Agency will notify school systems of the change and the amendment process.



Who is eligible for EEF?

- Local Educational Agencies (public school districts, including city school districts),
- Louisiana Special Schools,
- Brumfield vs. Dodd approved non-public schools and dioceses, and
- Charter LEA schools (Type 2, Type 3, Type 3B and Type 5)



The Millennium Trust statutes specifically establish that:

- Each recipient shall annually prepare and submit to the LDOE a prioritized plan for the expenditure of funds it expects to receive in the coming year from EEF;
- This plan shall include performance expectations that ensure accountability in the expenditure of such monies;
- LDOE has the responsibility of ensuring that the plans comply with the aforementioned requirements and that the expenditure plans support "excellence in education"; and
- No funds may be distributed to any school system until its plan has been approved by the Department and by the appropriate standing committees of the legislature.

EEF Program Requirements

Monies appropriated shall be restricted to expenditures for pre-kindergarten through 12th grade instructional enhancements for students, including:

- Early childhood education programs focused on enhancing the preparation of at-risk children for school.
- Remedial instruction and assistance to children who fail to achieve the required scores on any tests, passage of which are required pursuant to state law or rule for advancement to a succeeding grade.
- Other educational programs approved by the legislature.



Examples of acceptable uses of EEF funds:

- Early Childhood high-quality resources and PBIS programs,
- Student Literacy supports and books,
- Math numeracy supports,
- High school opportunities supports (i.e. ACT, Cohort Tracking),
- Effective teaching supports (i.e. STEM, Computer Science, Art), and
- Expanding educational choice through differentiated and targeted school improvement assistance.



Prohibited Use of EEF Funds

The legislation **prohibits** the use of any monies from the Education Excellence Fund for the following purposes:

- Expenditures for maintenance or renovation of buildings,
- Capital improvements,
- Increases in employees' salaries, and
- Sectarian/religious purposes.

Recipients are prohibited from using EEF funds to supplant any state general fund or locally generated revenue.



Accessing eGMS

- Electronic Grants Management System (eGMS)
- Education Excellence Fund (EEF) Application



eGMS Requirements

- Security Coordinator
- SAM/UEI
- DUNS



Security Coordinator

Non-public Security Access:

You must request the SC form from Randy Littleton via an email.
 Randy.Littleton@la.gov

The Security Coordinator:

- Assigns passwords,
- Grants access to parts of the application, and
- Assist in changing passwords.



eGMS Access Security Request

School Systems should:

- Have an assigned Security Coordinator
- Contact Security Coordinator if additional staff needs access

To find out who your Security Coordinator is:

Click on Forgot Password on the Logon Page





eGMS Access Security Request

- This will prompt you to the Password Reset System
- You will then click on the dropdown menu and select your site
- Then select "Help"
- Your Security Coordinator's name and contact information will then appear on the right in the yellow box





eGMS Access Security Request

- School Systems/Charters will have to request access from their Security Coordinator listed in the yellow box from the previous slide.
- Non-LEAs will need to send a request to <u>Randy.Littleton@la.gov</u> and request the eGMS Security Access form. Once the form has been filled out appropriately, Randy Littleton will set the required access and forward that person their username and temporary password.
- Once you receive your credentials, you will login and change your temporary password.
- Your password expires every 30 days. After three (3) failed attempts, your account will be locked and you will need to request an unlock from your Security Coordinator.



SAM and DUNS Information

Central Data: Information to Have Ready

- DUNS Number
- SAM Expiration Date
- UEI Number

UNS Number*
AM Expiration Date MM/DD/YYYY)*

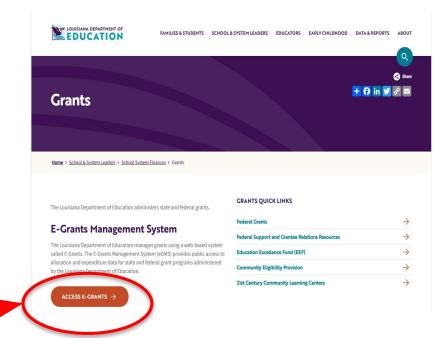


Accessing the eGrant Management System (eGMS)

MENU >

 Go to the Louisiana Department of Education's Federal Support and Grantee Relations <u>Grants</u> <u>Webpage</u>

Click the "Access E-Grants"





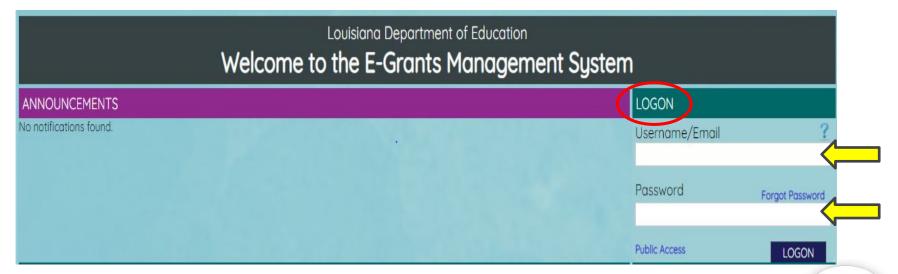
Accessing the eGrant Management System (eGMS)

- Direct access can be made through the LDOE e-Grants Management page.
 The eGrant Management System (eGMS) is located at https://egmsp.doe.louisiana.gov/LDEGMSWeb/Logon.aspx
- Bookmark eGrant or save it as a shortcut



eGMS - Logon Page

- Enter User Name
- Enter Password





eGMS - Main Menu

 Main Menu shows page(s) that you have been given access to click on GMS Access/Select





eGMS - LEA Central Data

- Go to LEA Central Data
- Click Create or Open





eGMS - Contact Information

Click on Contact Information and complete the information under these tabs:

- Central Contacts
- EEF Program Contact



eGMS - Assurances

Click on Assurances and complete the forms under these tabs:

- Common Assurances
- EEF Program Assurances



Save Page



eGMS – Education Excellence Fund (EEF) Application

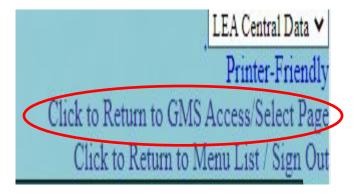


EEF – Life Cycle

- Applicants login to eGMS to create, complete, and submit their applications.
- 2) LDOE staff reviews complete submitted applications. The LDOE submits a request to the Legislature for the funding approval of applications.
- 3) The Legislature approves the release of EEF funds.
- 4) The LDOE informs recipients to final approval and makes direct payments to the recipients.
- 5) The recipients carry out activities and report on those activities in eGMS via the Evaluation Report form.

eGMS – EEF Application

- Click Return to GMS Access/Select Page
- Click on Education Excellence Fund





eGMS – EEF Application

- The FY 2025-2026 Education Excellence Fund (EEF) Application will be included under the Formula Grant section of the GMS Access Select page.
- Click Create or Open



Formula Grant

Application Name	Revision	Status	Date		
Carl Perkins Secondary Grant Application	Original Application >	Final Approved .	7/12/2025		
IDEA Consolidated Application	Original Application >	Final Approved	7/12/2025		
Education Excellence Fund	Original Application >	Not Submitted		Open	Amend



Parts of the EEF Application

- 1. Allocations
- 2. Program Specific
 - a. Expenditure Plan
 - b. Evaluation Report
- 3. Budget Pages

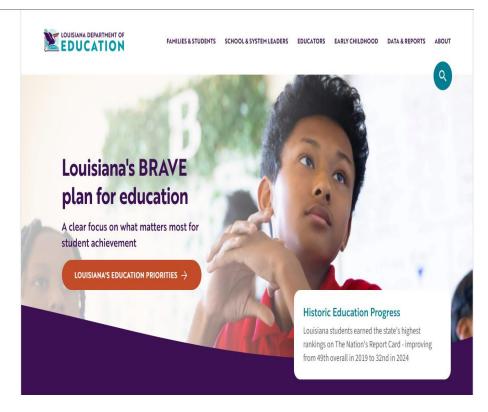




Allocations Tab

Regular Account Funds - If the District chooses to withdraw funds from its Regular EEF account for the current application year, they will need to go to the Budget Detail page in this application and enter the amount of funds they wish to withdraw. The Expenditure Plan is required and will provide details for how the Recipient will expend its EEF Funds. Reallocated Funds Unbudgeted and Carryover Prior Year Funds Cash on Hand Investment Account Funds - Current Balance: SO If Recipient chooses to withdraw from its Treasury Investment account balance, they will need to enter the amount to withdraw in this field. The amount transferred will be available for budgeting. School system chooses not to submit an expenditure plan at the current time. As indicated in the Attorney General's ruling, these funds " shall remain to the credit of each recipient entity at the close of each fiscal year " (Louisiana Revised Statute 39:98.3).	
Unbudgeted and Carryover Prior Year Funds Cash on Hand Investment Account Funds - Current Balance: SO If Recipient chooses to withdraw from its Treasury Investment account balance, they will need to enter the amount to withdraw in this field. The amount transferred will be available for budgeting. School system chooses not to submit an expenditure plan at the current time. As indicated in the Attorney General's ruling, these funds " shall remain to the credit of each recipient entity at the close of each fiscal year " (Louisiana Revised Statute 39:98.3).	
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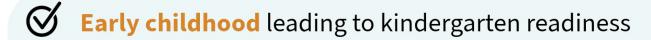
Expenditure Plan - Narrative



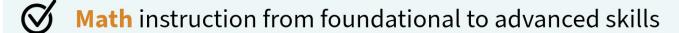
- Each applicant must submit a plan that outlines how they will use their EEF funds for the school year.
- The plan should include performance expectations to ensure accountability in the expenditure of such funds.
- All applicants will describe how EEF funds will be used to support the LEAs priorities as they align with the LDOE's priorities.



Louisiana's Education Priorities







- Opportunities ensuring a meaningful high school experience
- An effective teacher for every student
- Expand educational choice for students and families



Expenditure Plan Narrative

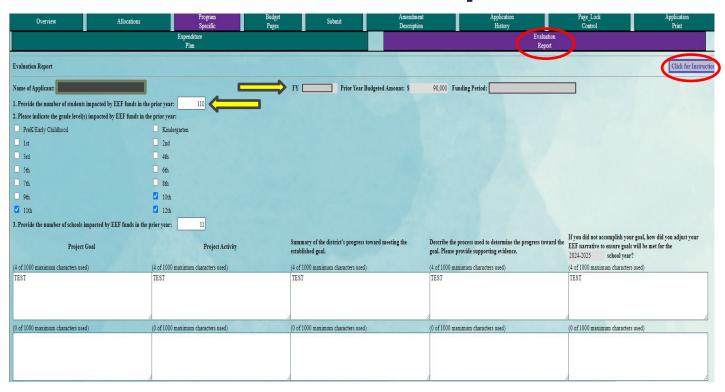
Expenditure Plan			Clic
Reporting Requirements: Each recipient school or school system will prepare and submit to the Louisiana Department of Education a prioritized plan Louisiana Special Schools, Brumfield-Dodd approved non-public schools, dioceses, and Type 2, Type 3, Type 3B and Type subsection and assure that the expenditure plans will provide excellence in educational practice.			
	How will EEF funds be used to support the LEA's priorities?		
Educational Priority	Focus Area(s)	Description of Activities	Method of Evaluation
1. Early childhood leading to kindergarten readiness	PBIS	(0 of 500 maximum characters used)	(0 of 500 maximum characters used)
	Access to high-quality early childhood education		
	Mental and behavioral health		
	Proven, evidence-based strategies for diverse learners		
	School choice for students and families		
	Supports and services for English Learners		
2. Literacy instruction aligned to the Science of Reading		(0 of 500 maximum characters used)	(0 of 500 maximum characters used)
	Student literacy outcomes will increase when schools create and monitor literacy goals. Literacy outcomes will improve when students are provided high-quality core instruction together with explicit	(0 or 500 maximom characters osco)	(0 or 500 marmon characters asco)
Items or services that support Louisiana's Four Literacy Pillars:	literacy interventions and extensions based on individual student needs.		
 Student literacy outcomes will increase when schools create and monitor literacy goals. Literacy outcomes will improve when students are provided high-quality core instruction together with explicit literacy interventions and extensions based on individual student needs. 	Ongoing professional growth is an essential component of effective teaching and literacy development.		
 Ongoing professional growth is an essential component of effective teaching and literacy development. Families play an essential role in the literacy development of children at all ages and stages. 	Families play an essential role in the literacy development of children at all ages and stages.		
For additional guidance, please email questions to louisianaliteracy@la.gov			
3. Math instruction from foundational to advanced skills	□Numeracy training for teachers in K-12	(0 of 500 maximum characters used)	(0 of 500 maximum characters used)
5. Main instruction from foundational to advanced skills			
	Foundational Numeracy Support		
For additional guidance, please email questions to math@la.gov			
	Classroom manipulatives aligned to the adopted HQIM		
Opportunities ensuring a meaningful high school experience	ACT scores	(0 of 500 maximum characters used)	(0 of 500 maximum characters used)
	Associate's degrees		
	Cohort tracking		
	Community Service Diploma Endorsement		
	Credentials		
	Dual enrollment		
	FAFSA completion		
	High-demand apprenticeships		
	☐ Individualized Graduation Plans		

Expenditure Plan Narrative (continued)

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Evaluation Report





Evaluation Report

- The Evaluation Report is completed by applicants to report how Prior Year budgeted EEF funds were used.
- If a recipient has "cash on hand" from the previous year, an Evaluation Report must be submitted in the current application.
- If a recipient will be using EEF funds in the current year, then an Evaluation Report must be submitted in the following year's application.



EEF Budget

Budget Detail I	BUDGET BREAKDOW	N (Use w	hole dollars onl	y. On	nit Decimal Places, e	e.g., \$2536)					CI	ick for Instructions
The application has been approved. No more updates will be saved for the application.												
temize and explain	n each expenditure amou	int that ap	pears on the Bu	dget S	Summary. Click on t	he "Create Additional	l Entries" button to er	nter additional informa	tion.			
				-		EEF		Total				
			al Allocated budgeted			\$0 \$0		\$0 \$0				
		Uni	ouugeteu			90		50				
Description of Edu	cational Improvement C	ategories	(EIC) and Object	ct Co	des							
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EEF Budget

- Align items in budget with Expenditure Plan/Narrative.
- Provide detailed information (per unit cost and total number) when purchasing laptops, ipads, and computers.
- Use the correct EIC codes.



EEF EIC Codes

- INS Instruction, Remediation, and Extended Instruction
- EC Early Childhood
- AEP Approved Educational Program (Other)

Fiscal Review Guidance

Detailed Object Code and Education Improvement Category Descriptions



Submit Application

- Review the application for completeness and accuracy.
- Go to Submit Tab.
- Run consistency check and fix any errors.
- Submit application.



The Consistency Check must be successfully processed before you can submit the application.



2025-2026 EEF Timeline

FY 2025-2026 EEF Application Release Date	Week of September 22, 2025		
FY 2025-2026 EEF Application Due Date	Friday, October 10 th , 2025		
Legislative Approval – Education Excellence Fund Expenditure Plans	November 2025 – December 2025		
LDOE Preparation for Payments/Disbursements	December 2025 – March 2026		
6/30 Periodic Expense Report (PER) due date	July 15 th , 2026		







Contact our Team!

Grants Management Help Desk

LDOE.GrantsHelpdesk@la.gov

or

Visit the **EEF Webpage**

