

Highlights from the California Department of Education Professional Learning and Literacy

Jennifer Howerter works in the Professional Learning Innovations Office in the Educator Excellence and Equity Division at the California Department of Education (CDE) and is also the CDE Liaison to the California Reading Association. She wanted to share some important updates and events that are happening in California.

Funding Updates

Staff at the CDE are busy coordinating several grant opportunities. Not only are there new state-funded professional learning grant opportunities, there is a federal one as well.

Comprehensive Literacy State Development Grant

The CDE was recently awarded approximately \$37.5 million for the federal Comprehensive Literacy State Development (CLSD) grant to leverage and expand the existing statewide infrastructure, guidance, and expertise to bring coherence to the system of literacy supports to improve student outcomes over a period of five years.

To support the CLSD work, the CDE will work with stakeholders to develop a state literacy plan and will distribute no less than 95 percent of the grant to 11 regional awardees through a competitive grant process. Using the state literacy plan as a framework, the awardees will support local educational agencies within their regions to develop their own literacy plans. The goal is to impact every student and teacher in California's public and private kindergarten through grade twelve schools and early childhood education programs, with an emphasis on low-income and high-need students. Find out more information and sign up for a listserv at the CDE's CLSD grant web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/pd/ps/clsd.asp>.

Educator Workforce Investment Grants

Section 84 of the Education Omnibus Trailer Bill (Senate Bill 75) for the 2019–20 California State Budget established the Educator Workforce Investment Grant (EWIG) Program to support one or more competitive grants for professional learning opportunities for teachers and paraprofessionals across the state. The CDE and the California Collaborative for Educational Excellence are directed to establish a process to select one or more institutions of higher education or nonprofit organizations to conduct activities in the following areas:

- Computer Science
- English Learner Roadmap
- Positive School Climate
- 21st Century California School Leadership Academy
- Special Education

Learn more about these grants on the CDE's EWIG web page at:
<https://www.cde.ca.gov/pd/ps/ewig.asp>.

Keep apprised of these updates and more! Subscribe to the Professional Learning News Listserv. This monthly newsletter provides information about a variety of professional development opportunities for educators as well as links to CDE newsletters and statewide events hosted by the CDE and organizational partners. To join the Professional Learning News listserv send a blank email to join-professional-learning-news@mlist.cde.ca.gov. View archived issues of the newsletters here: <https://collaborationincommon.org/collection/417ea897-3a2f-4d1c-9eb9-4120dd26fe6d/post>

You can also receive the CDE Literacy newsletter for free! Send a blank email to: join-cde-literacy@mlist.cde.ca.gov.