



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Funding Opportunity

Applications Due: **Sunday, December 1, 2024, by 11:59 pm**

Applications Open: **Friday, November 1, 2024**

9th Grade Success Grant Program

Pursuant to H.B. 2897

Program Questions:

esser@azed.gov

Grants Management Questions:

(602) 542-3901 | <https://helpdesk.azed.gov>

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Note: The following version of the application is intended as a reference document for instructions and grant application planning purposes.

Applications for the 9th Grade Success Grant must be submitted through Grants Management in ADE Connect.

9th Grade Success Grant

Applications Due: Sunday, December 1, 2024, by 11:59 pm

Introduction

The 9th Grade Success Grant is designed to provide funding to local education agencies to improve the 9th-grade student experience to ensure that students enrolled in 9th grade develop the skills they need to successfully persist to tenth grade on time and ultimately graduating from high school and launching successful careers. Applicants commit to implementing the key components of the 9th Grade Success model, based on the [Center for High School Success Roadmap](#), and should use funds to support implementation in each of the following categories:

- **Timely, Actionable Data**
- **Highly Effective 9th Grade Success Teams**
- **Proactive & Data Driven Interventions**
- **Comprehensive System of 9th Grade Transition Supports**
- **High Quality Instruction**

Title IV-A in School Support and Improvement will provide focus, coordination, research, and leadership to assist local education agencies in implementing efforts to reduce the dropout rate and increase graduation and completion rates and levels of student engagement and re-engagement related to the goals of the 9th Grade Success Grant Program.

Eligible Applicants

Local Education Agencies (LEAs) are eligible to apply for this opportunity and will identify the school(s) that will participate.

Eligibility: A graduation rate of less than 85% for the last two school years.

Available grant funding will be distributed to LEAs with school(s) demonstrating high need based on the following priority criteria:

- In the last year, the school was within the lowest 25% of schools in four-year graduation rate
- Is in a rural area as defined by ADE
- Is funding a new 9th grade transition program that has not been previously funded by the LEA
- Were previously funded with the 9th Grade Success Grant and completed a successful program

Available Funds and Duration of Grant

Approximately \$1 million is available for the 2024-2025 school year. Note that future funding levels are not guaranteed. Current statute indicates that the grant will expire June 30, 2025. Future funding levels are contingent on annual appropriations by the State Legislature and a change for continuation of the grant.

Grants will be awarded for a one-year implementation term in the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

- Grants will focus on school and district training, coaching, and capacity building to support the implementation of 9th Grade Success components.
 - Approximately \$1,000,000 is available
 - Grants will be awarded to approximately 20 schools
 - Applicants may request up to \$50,000 per school for 2024-2025, maximum of 5 schools per LEA
 - Carryover is not available for this grant
 - This is a reverting state grant, and funds are expected to be expended by June 30, 2025

Allowable Use of Funds

LEAs that receive a grant under the program commit to implementing the 9th Grade Success Grant program components and must use the monies to support this implementation. These components fall under five general categories from the [Center for High School Success Roadmap](#) and are listed below:

- 1. Timely, Actionable Data:**
 - Provide data access
 - Develop data literacy
- 2. Highly Effective 9th Grade Success Teams:**
 - Establish foundational structures and conditions for 9th grade on-track work
 - Establish systems and processes for operationalizing the work of the 9th grade team
 - Systematize 9th grade success by recruiting and engaging all stakeholders
- 3. Proactive & Data Driven Interventions:**
 - Cultivate a growth mindset in adults
 - Establish data-driven intervention and referral systems and processes
 - Implement proactive and high leverage intervention strategies
- 4. Comprehensive System of 9th Grade Transition Supports:**
 - Create a personalized and supportive environment for 9th grade students
 - Provide early preparation for high school entry
 - Provide proactive supports
- 5. High Quality Instruction:**
 - Implement fair grading practices
 - Develop learning-centered professional communities
 - Develop student-centered learning communities

Examples of Allowable Expenses:

- A vendor or expert coach that provides 9th grade transition support
- A grant program coordinator or 9th-grade success leader who leads and organizes the work of the grant and supports 9th-grade staff and students
- Intervention curriculum, training, or coaching for 9th-grade instructional staff
- Time for staff to plan and meet to review student data, plan interventions, and instructional support
- Professional development, conferences, or training for 9th-grade staff that supports implementation of 9th-grade success components

Examples of Unallowable expenses:

- Capital equipment or capital improvements such as upgrades or improvements to buildings, utilities or IT infrastructure, or construction
- Maintenance
- Gift cards, gift certificates, cash awards, gas for students' personal vehicles, personal gifts, door prizes, etc.

Evaluation and Reporting

Each LEA awarded a grant is required to provide information to ADE concerning the implementation of the 9th Grade Success Program and the evaluation of impact. Applicants must have, or acquire, the capacity to complete the evaluation and reports.

All applicants receiving grant funding are required to submit to ADE annually:

- Fiscal reports during full year implementation and an annual completion report (CR).
- At least one performance report (e.g., numbers of students served, student outcomes such as on-track rate and course passage rate, progress on performance measures, implementation progress, etc.) in the 2024-2025 school year (EMAC).

Applicants receiving grant funding are required to participate in state evaluations as needed.

Data Privacy

ADE takes seriously its obligation to protect the privacy of student and educator Personally Identifiable Information (PII) collected, used, shared, and stored.

Documents submitted as part of the application must not contain any personally identifiable student or educator information including names, identification numbers, or anything that could identify an individual. All data should be referenced/included in the aggregate and the aggregate counts should be redacted to remove small numbers under n=16 for students or n=5 for educators.

Information reported to ADE in relation to grant activities is not confidential and is subject to public request. Awarded grantees should ensure reported information does not contain Personally Identifiable Information (PII) or confidential information.

Application Assistance and Intent to Apply

If interested in applying for this funding opportunity, submit the Grants Management application in GME starting on **Friday, November 1, 2024**.

Review Process and Notification

Applications will be reviewed by ADE staff to ensure they contain all the required components.

Note: This is a competitive process – applicants must score at least 22 points out of the 42 possible narrative points to be approved for funding. There is no guarantee that applying will result in funding or funding at the requested level. All award decisions are final. Applicants that do not meet the qualifications may reapply for future grant opportunities.

Submission Process and Deadline

Completed applications (including all required elements outlined below) must be **submitted by Sunday, December 1, 2024, by 11:59 pm**.

Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.

Application materials and budget are available for download on ADE's [9th Grade Success Grant website](#).

9th Grade Success Grant

Applications Due: Sunday, December 1, 2024, by 11:59 pm

Applicant Information

Submit all application materials through ADE Connect Grants Management

Local Education Provider (LEA) Information			
LEA Name:		CTDS #	
School Name			
Requested Funding			
Ensure that these amounts match the submitted Budget Workbook.			
Implementation Period 2024-2025 School Year	\$		
Previous Grant Information			
The following information will be verified by ADE and considered in the funding decision.			
Is the LEA considered High Risk in GME (Grants Management Enterprise)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	
Is the LEA currently "On Hold" Status in GME?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	
Does the LEA have unspent funds in other grants after the end of the performance period?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	
If unspent funds were reverted, enter the year(s) and amount(s) of those reversions:			
Year(s):		Amount(s):	

Application Narrative Criteria and Evaluation Rubric

Narrative [30 Points]

The following criteria will be used by reviewers to evaluate the application. Applications must receive at least 18 points out of 30 possible narrative points and all required elements must be addressed to be recommended for funding.

Scoring Definitions

Minimally Addressed or Does Not Meet Criteria - information not provided.

Met Some but Not All Identified Criteria - requires additional clarification.

Met All Criteria - adequate response, but not thoroughly developed or high-quality response.

Met All Criteria with High Quality - clear, concise, and well thought out response.

Priority Criteria	Did Not Meet Criteria	Met Criteria
Priority points will be used to determine the order of funding. The priority area is intended to provide funding towards the highest need schools based on the criteria below. Note: Eligible applicants that do not have a large enough student population for data to be published may share data in the application in the Needs Assessment section to demonstrate how they met criteria. This may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summary of data when fewer than 16 students participated. Information from a previous school of majority of students if a school is new or merging with another school. 		
Criteria 1: Recipient school is identified as within the lowest twenty-five percent among Arizona public schools on the graduation rates in the preceding school year (2023-2024).	0	3
Criteria 2: Recipient school is in a rural area as defined by ADE	0	3
Criteria 3: Recipient is funding a new 9 th grade transition program that has not been previously funded by the LEA	0	3
Criteria 4: Recipient was previously funded with ADE's 9 th Grade Success Grant and completed a successful program	0	3
Priority Points Total:		/12

Section A: Needs Assessment					Does Not Meet Criteria	Met Some but Not All Identified Criteria	Met All Criteria	Met All Criteria with High Quality	TOTAL
1) Describe the need for the proposed program, based on analysis of relevant student, staff, and family indicators. This should include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Academic performance of 9th-grade students, including math performance if this is a focus of the application. Trends in course completion and on-track rate for 9th-grade students. Analysis of student engagement indicators, which may include but not limited to attendance, student discipline and other engagement measures. Trends in four-year, five-year, and six-year graduation rates within the past three school years. 					0	1	2	3	
2) Identify current needs related to implementation of components of 9th-grade success and gaps the proposal is intended to address that may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transition services for 8th- to 9th- grade students. Data systems for identification of 9th-grade students at-risk of dropping out due to attendance, academic performance, and/or behavior. Instructional supports (e.g., common instructional practices, content-specific academic interventions, tutoring, course-completion programs). Structures for teacher and staff coordination and collaboration; and/or Supports to meet student needs (social-emotional, behavioral, service connections, and student skill building support). 					0	1	2	3	
Section A Total:								/6	
Section B: Program Description					Minimally Addressed or Does Not Meet Criteria	Met Some but Not All Identified Criteria	Addressed Criteria but Not with Thorough Detail	Met All Criteria with High Quality	TOTAL
This section evaluates the applicant’s readiness to implement the 9th Grade Success Grant.									
Program Management and Data Systems									
Please describe the approach to provide training, support, and other activities to support implementation of the 9th-grade success components referencing recommendations from the Center for High School Success Roadmap .									
Timely, Actionable Data: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide data access Develop data literacy 					0	1	2	3	
Highly Effective 9th Grade Success Teams: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish foundational structures and conditions for 9th grade on-track work Establish systems and processes for operationalizing the work of the 9th grade team Systematize 9th grade success by recruiting and engaging all stakeholders 					0	1	2	3	
Proactive & Data Driven Interventions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cultivate a growth mindset in adults Establish data-driven intervention and referral systems and processes Implement proactive and high leverage intervention strategies 					0	1	2	3	
Comprehensive System of 9th Grade Transition Supports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a personalized and supportive environment for 9th grade students Provide early preparation for high school entry Provide proactive supports 					0	1	2	3	
High Quality Instruction: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement fair grading practices Develop learning-centered professional communities Develop student-centered learning communities 					0	1	2	3	
Section B Total:								/15	

Section C: Performance Objectives and Evaluation	Minimally Addressed or Does Not Meet Criteria	Met Some but Not All Identified Criteria	Addressed Criteria but Not with Thorough Detail	Met All Criteria with High Quality	TOTAL
1) Indicate your current data and your goals for 2024-2025. At least one goal selected. Program Goal 1: Increase the percentage of 9th-grade courses passed. 2023/24 Courses Attempted/Passed: _____ 2024-2025 Goal: _____ <hr/> Program Goal 2: Increase the percentage of 9th-grade students that move to tenth grade with no more than one course failure. 2023/24 On Track Rate: _____ 2024-2025 Goal: _____ <hr/> Program Goal 3: Increase the mathematics performance of 9th-grade students. 2023/24 On Track Rate (Math): _____ 2024-2025 Goal: _____	0	1	2	3	

Section D Total: /3

Section D: Budget Narrative and Electronic Budget	Minimally Addressed or Does Not Meet Criteria	Met Some but Not All Identified Criteria	Addressed Criteria but Not with Thorough Detail	Met All Criteria with High Quality	TOTAL
Budget Narrative 1) Provide a narrative explanation that summarizes the proposed uses of grant funds by budget category or proposed program strategies. Refer to all uses of funds described in Budget Workbook to ensure they are all justified expenses for components of the proposed program. 2) To receive maximum points, the budget and budget narrative should provide justification for activities, strategies and/or staffing referenced in Section B: Program Description.	0	1	2	3	
Budget Workbook 3) Provide the budget for each recipient school. Include a brief description of the item to be funded and the funding calculation to show how amounts were derived. 4) Costs are reasonable and sufficient in relation to the measurable objectives, design, scope, sustainability, and duration of project activities. Use of funds are connected to grant goals and activities. Item Description Example: x.xx FTE for [role or title] at \$xxxxx per [hour, month, or year] times [x per hours, months, or year]	0	1	2	3	

Section E Total: /6

9th Grade Success Grant

Application Scoring

ADE Use Only

Narrative

Section A:	Needs Assessment	/06
Section B:	Program Description	/15
Section C:	Performance Objectives and Evaluation	/03
Section D:	Budget Narrative and Electronic Budget	/06

Subtotal:	/30
Priority Points:	/12
Total:	/42

GENERAL COMMENTS:

RECOMMENDATION: Funded _____ Not Funded _____