



Early Care and Education Investments

An Overview: Eligible Subgrantees

2022-2024



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY
Your Partner For A Stronger Arizona



HQEL Questions:

<https://ideaboardz.com/for/High%20Quality%20Early%20Learning/4335558>



Early Care and Education Investments

Early Literacy
Policy
Framework

Quality Early
Learning

Early Literacy
Supports



www.azed.gov/ece/HQEL

Overview



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CHILD CARE

THE MOST SWEEPING PLAN IN THE NATION

"Child care is one of the most important things we can focus on as we emerge from the pandemic. This year was tough on our kids and our hardworking parents. That's why we're directing our resources to help parents return to the workforce and get our kids the care they need."

GOVERNOR DUCEY

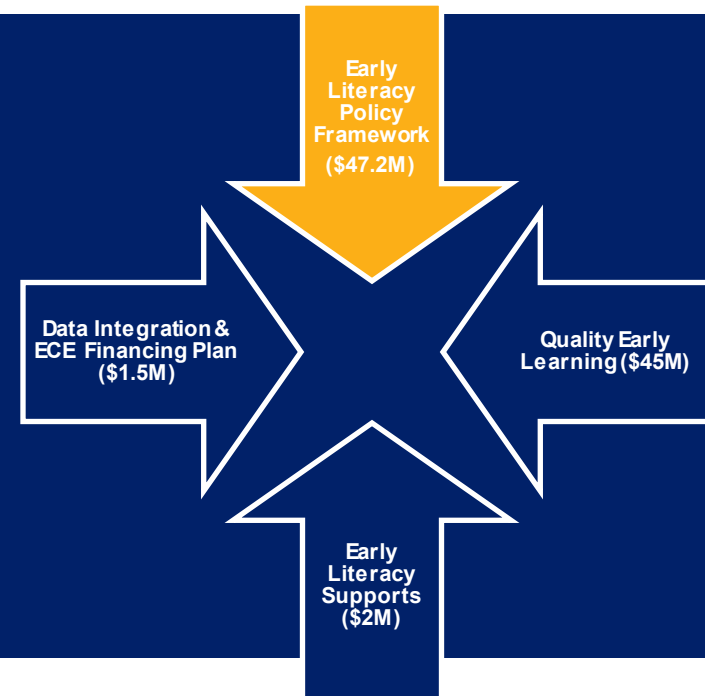
- **\$548.9 million** to stabilize and support child care providers through a grant program
- **\$134.8 million** to increase reimbursement rates for child care providers
- **\$73.4 million** to increase the number of quality child care settings around the state
- **\$47.2 million** to develop early literacy programs for children across the state
- **\$45 million** to increase funding for child care for Arizonans in need pursuing an undergraduate degree in teaching or nursing
- **\$45 million** to improve and expand preschool curriculum
- **\$39 million** to ensure there remains no waitlist for the child care subsidy for eligible families
- **\$30.2 million** to cover child care subsidies for unemployed Arizonans who return to the workforce
- **\$30 million** to increase funding for students in need pursuing an undergraduate degree that would raise their wages above the need for government assistance

The FY 2022 budget signed by Governor Ducey invests **\$1.2 billion** in child care, compared to **\$181 million** last year. This represents a five-fold increase in year-over-year child care spending.

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Early Literacy Policy Framework



Early Literacy Investments

1. Educator Capacity and New Teacher Prep. A key focus of Mississippi's strategy was dramatically increasing the knowledge of educators and practitioners in the science of reading. Arizona has secured funding to take this crucial strategy to greater scale through the federal Comprehensive Literacy State Development (CLSD) grant — totaling \$20M over five years — to strengthen teacher preparation and provide professional development to schools with the highest percentage of disadvantaged struggling readers. Additional funding for Acceleration Academies — which leverage critical Governor's Emergency Education Relief Funds — targets schools most impacted by COVID-19 to minimize learning loss.

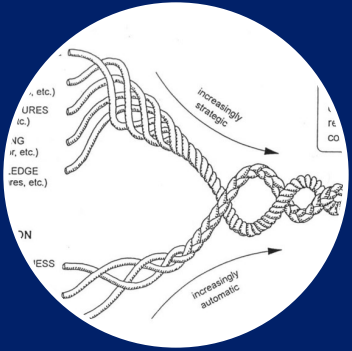
	Implementation	Schools Served	Annual Budget
Year 1	CLSD Grant	180+	\$4M secured
	AZ Cares/Acceleration Academies		up to \$4.625M secured
Years 2-5	CLSD Grant	15-25 subgrants	\$4M secured

2. "Swarm" Literacy Coaching. Mississippi deployed master literacy coaches to their lowest-performing schools to provide PK-3 schools with intensive technical assistance to support, improve, and sustain effective teaching and literacy practices. Schools that received these intensive interventions demonstrated significant progress by the third year. To help close Arizona's achievement gap among key student subgroups, additional funding is needed to deploy 75 regional literacy coaches — coordinated by ADE — to provide ongoing, evidence-based technical assistance in effective reading instruction at the lowest-performing schools (the bottom 10%, as identified by third-grade ELA assessment data, having a below-proficiency rate of 77% or higher.)

	Regional Coaches	Schools Served	Students Served	Annual Budget
Year 1	25	50	20,000	\$3.1M
Year 2	50	100	40,000	\$5.6M
Years 3-5	75	150	60,000	\$8.1M

3. High-Quality Early Learning. Mississippi's Early Learning Collaboratives Act expanded high-quality early childhood education programs in high-need areas and monitored progress with a standardized state kindergarten entry assessment to demonstrate school readiness for young learners receiving early literacy supports. Currently only 22% of Arizona's 3- and 4-year-olds are in a quality early learning setting. Additional funding for access to high-quality early learning opportunities in high-need areas of Arizona is a critical driver for more children being ready to learn to read as they enter kindergarten and improving third-grade reading outcomes.

	Children Served	Annual Budget
AZ Early Childhood Block Grant	2,000 additional	\$20M ADE request
State Kindergarten Entry Assessment	80,000+	\$1.5M fully funded by 2024



Science of Reading



Literacy Coaching



High-Quality Early Learning



Science of Reading

Increase the knowledge of educators and practitioners in the Science of Reading

The Science of Reading is built on two fundamental truths:

1. We were never born to read. Our brains are hardwired for speech, not print.
2. The alphabetic principle is the foundation of our alphabetic writing system. It is fundamentally different from pictograph and logograph systems.



Educate Empower Elevate
SCIENCE OF
READING

Definition: The Science of Reading is a vast, interdisciplinary body of scientifically-based research about reading and issues related to reading and writing. (The Science of Reading: A Defining Movement Coalition, 2021)

<https://www.azed.gov/scienceofreading>



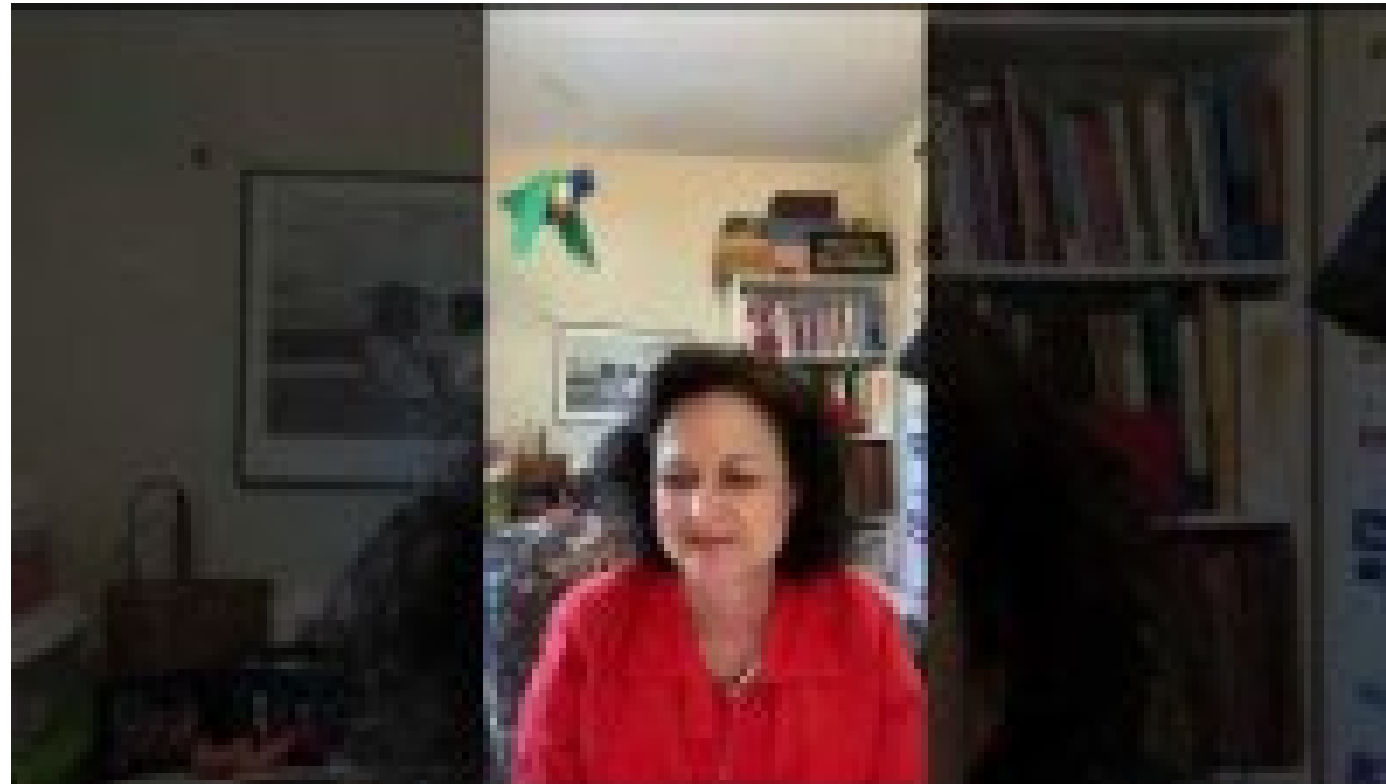
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Science of Reading

Increase the knowledge of educators and practitioners in the Science of Reading



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https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MRpW7Md5Zfs&list=PLECTHyT_TmPDjeyF8tlt_6TCccySnkJvR&index=2



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Literacy Coaching

On-going and
evidence-based
TA

Effective reading
instruction

Improve and
sustain effective
literacy practices

Close
achievement
gaps among key
subgroups

Site selection
based on lowest
performing
district ELA data



Literacy Coaching

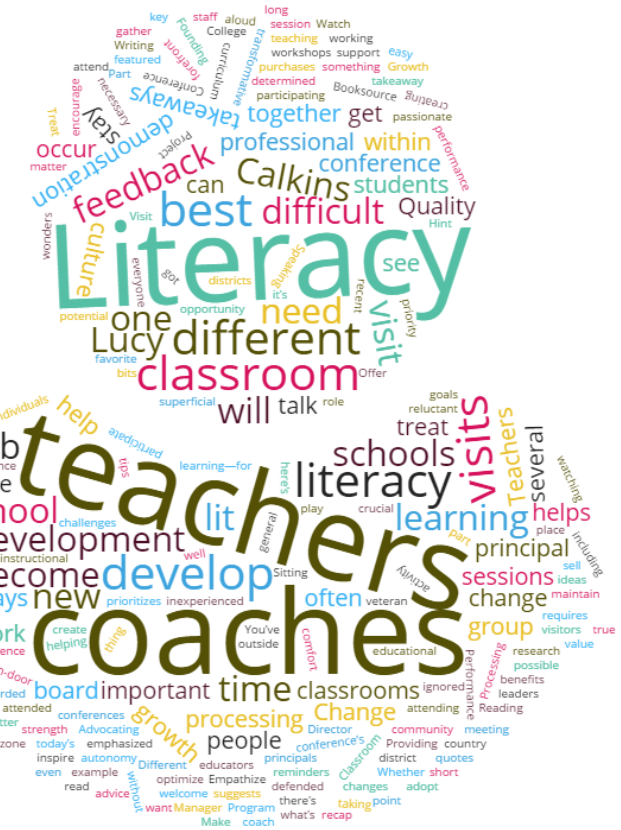
Leverage existing ECE coaching structure

Support a grow your own model

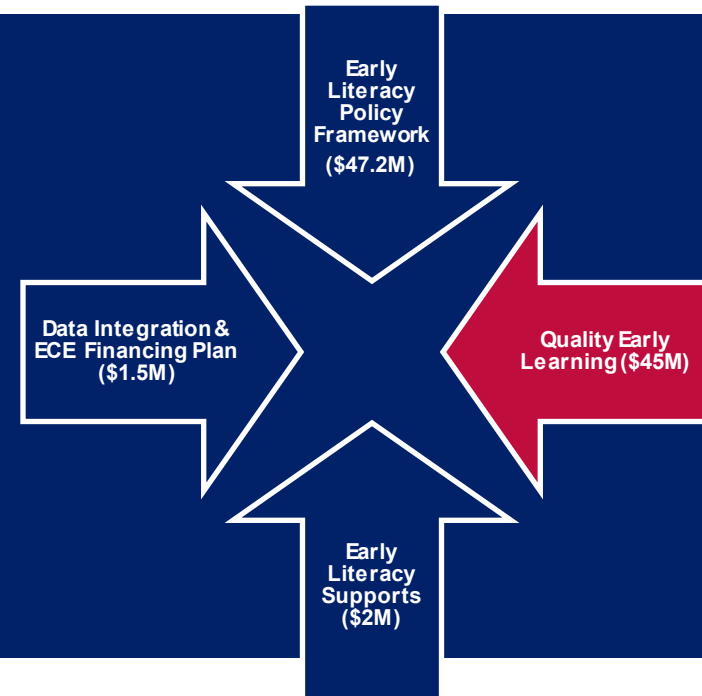
Support creation of Coaching Specialization

Work with IHEs on coaching pipeline

Build coach capacity on Science of Reading



High Quality Early Learning



High Quality Preschool Programming

The High-Quality Early Learning Grant (HQEL), offered in partnership AZ DES-CCA, is to assist Arizona in developing and enhancing capacity to deliver high-quality preschool programming as well as implement and sustain high-quality preschool for eligible children in selected high-needs programs.



Increasing Access to Quality

The PDG 3.0 will allocate funds for the provision of High-Quality preschool programming, as outlined in the Program Guidelines and as measured by:

- Accreditation by a Nationally recognized body
- Quality First Participation
- Head Start Affiliation
- Alignment to and implementation of HQPG
 - Curriculum
 - Assessment
 - Educator Qualifications

High Needs Communities and Programs

ADE ECE believes that funding of early childhood should be approached through a lens of equity where those most in need would be determined eligible to apply for the HQEL grant funding. ADE ECE will work in collaboration with state partners to identify most-in-need indicators beyond the requisite income requirements to determine what programs within high-needs communities are eligible to apply.



Most-In-Need Indicators

- Poverty
- Opportunity Zone
- Census Tract
 - Rural
 - Tribal Lands
- Performance Data (OPM & ELA)
- Preschool Gap Data
- DES Site
- Prior PDG Site

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Child Eligibility

- Funding will support full time (FT) programming for children ages 3 and 4 **ONLY** who may not otherwise have access to high-quality early care and education prior to kindergarten entry (must adhere to supplanting rules)
- Child must be 3 or 4 years old prior to September 1st
- Children age eligible for kindergarten will not be covered by this funding source
- Total household income (for **ALL** adults in the house) cannot exceed 300% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL)



Implementation Standards

Programs must determine the eligibility of the children participating and ensure they are serving the children “most in need”.

- Create a local process for recruitment and identifying children most in need.
 - Must include children with disabilities
- ❖ **Family income eligibility must be at or below 300% of FPL**
- Verification of income eligibility must be provided by the family and maintained on site for at least two years
 - Families will not be charged additional **tuition** costs for the preschool experiences during the HQEL hours of operation.
- ❖ **Eligible programs will participate in the DES’ Grants Management System.**
- ❖ **Eligible programs will participate in the Early Childhood Quality Improvement Practice (ECQUIP)**
- ❖ **Eligible programs will participate in Desktop and Onsite Monitoring**



Intensity of Service

Full Day/Full Time *Services* are defined as:

- ❖ A minimum of 24 hours per week
- ❖ A minimum of 4 days per week
- ❖ 6 hours a day

Part Day/Part Time *Services* are defined as:

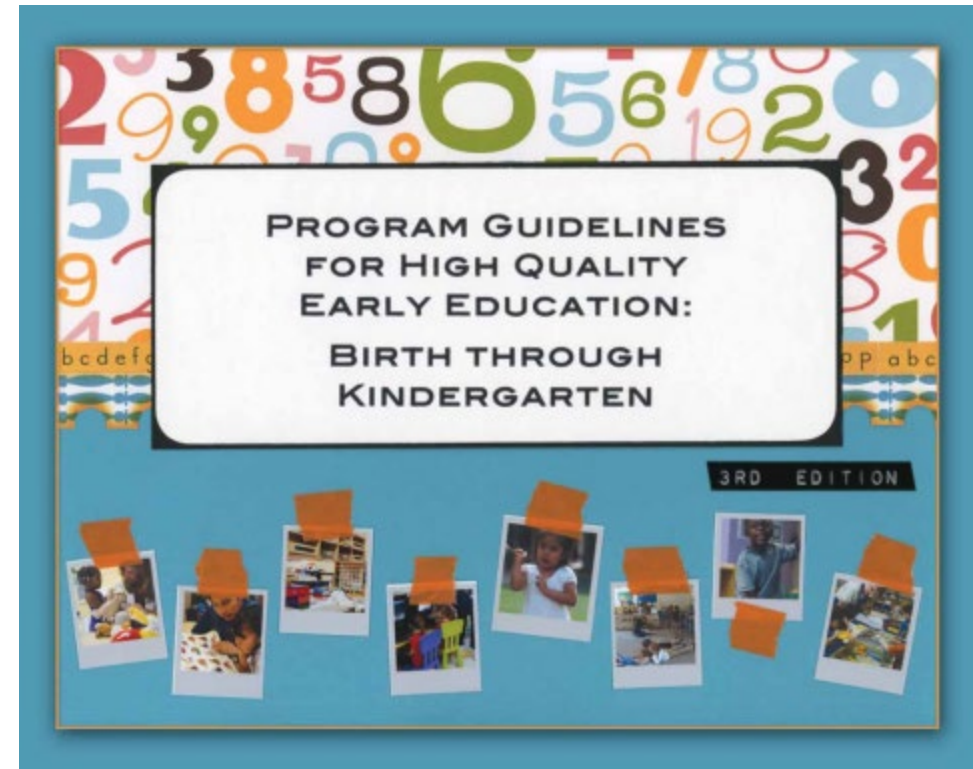
- ❖ No less than 12 hours per week
- ❖ A minimum of 3 hours per day
- ❖ A minimum of 4 days per week

Programs must provide a minimum of 9-10 months of programming

The school year should align with the Local Education Agency calendar (to the greatest extent possible)

Program Guidelines

- Ratios
- Staff Qualifications
- Curriculum
- Child Screening & Assessment



Child Assessment

Formative assessment activities will be used to inform individual instruction and program improvement and will include:

- ❖ **Quality observations and anecdotal notes; collecting work samples; and gathering family input**

All programs will use the Arizona State Board of Education approved, on-line tool for ongoing progress monitoring

Training in appropriate use of on-line tool is required for all staff

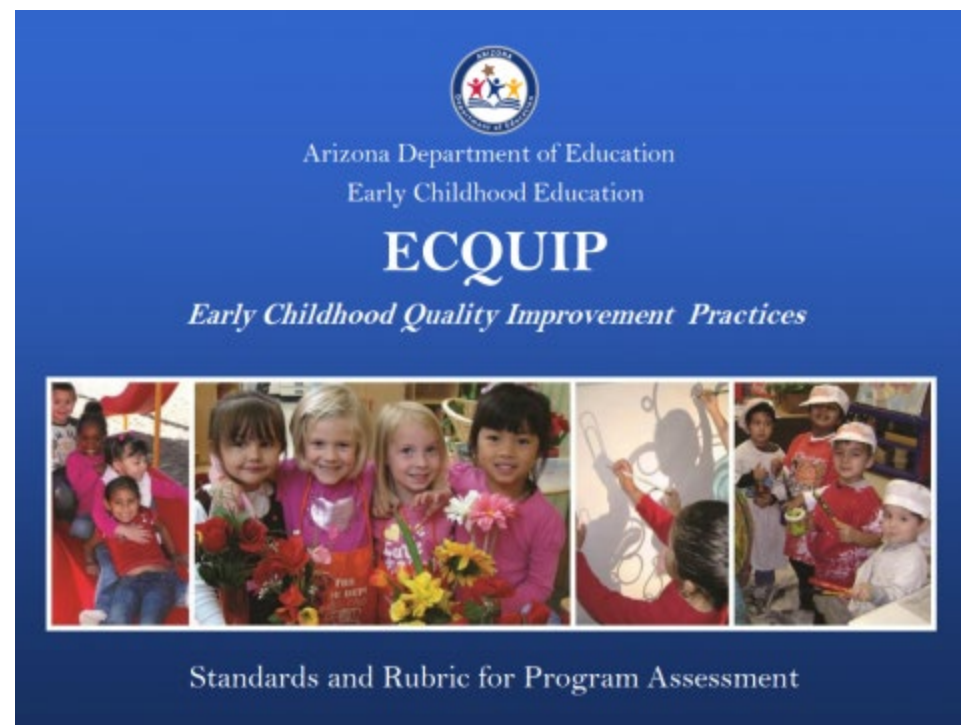
Sub-grantees must obtain AzEDS numbers (formerly known as SAIS IDs) for SLDS for each child

Sub-grantees must obtain an Entity ID number for their program to participate and apply within the DES' GME system



Early Childhood Quality Improvement Practices

The Early Childhood Quality Improvement Practices (ECQUIP) process was developed by the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) Early Childhood Education (ECE) unit to assure quality and accountability among schools receiving state and federal funding through the ECE division of ADE. ECQUIP is intended to be used to guide program planning for ongoing quality improvement and provides programs with a framework for implementing quality practices.



Monitoring and Evaluation

- **Child Age Verification**
- **Family Income Verification**
- **Most-In-Need Written Policy**
- **Written Recruitment Procedures**
- **Staff Qualifications**
- **Staff Compensation**
- **Program Intensity**
- **Program Quality**
- **ECQUIP**
- **K-Transition Plan**
- **Classroom Observation**
- **Fiscal Auditing**



Educational Monitoring, Assistance and Compliance

EMAC Portal User Guide



Application

High Quality Early Learning Grant FY 22

THIS IS A DISCRETIONARY GRANT. APPLICATION IS OPEN TO PREQUALIFIED ORGANIZATIONS ONLY AT THIS TIME. PLEASE CONTACT EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM COORDINATOR at ECEInbox@azed.gov FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

Eligibility does not automatically conclude grant award. For more information regarding the grant and grant requirements please visit <https://www.azed.gov/ece/HQEL>

Provider/School Information

Legal Name	License	DES	City	Zipcode
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	85003

FFATA REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Please check to confirm that your entity has met the annual Central Contract Registry at www.sam.gov and have a registered DUNS number. *

I Confirm

PRESCHOOL PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Please provide a short description of your preschool program in one to two paragraphs. *

How many 3 and 4 years old are currently enrolled in your program (i.e., Tuition, DES Subsidy, Head Start, QF, IDEA, Title I, Title III etc.)? *

How many are HQEL Grant funded slots will you be requesting? *

Of the slots you are requesting funding for; please identify how they will be utilized: *

- New Full Time Slots
- Enhancing part time slots to provide a full time experience
- A combination of full time slots and enhanced slots

- Application: <https://www.cognitofrms.com/AZCCA1/HighQualityEarlyLearningGrantFY22>
- W9 Form: <https://gao.az.gov/sites/default/files/GAO-W-9%20State%20of%20Arizona%20Substitute%20W-9.pdf>

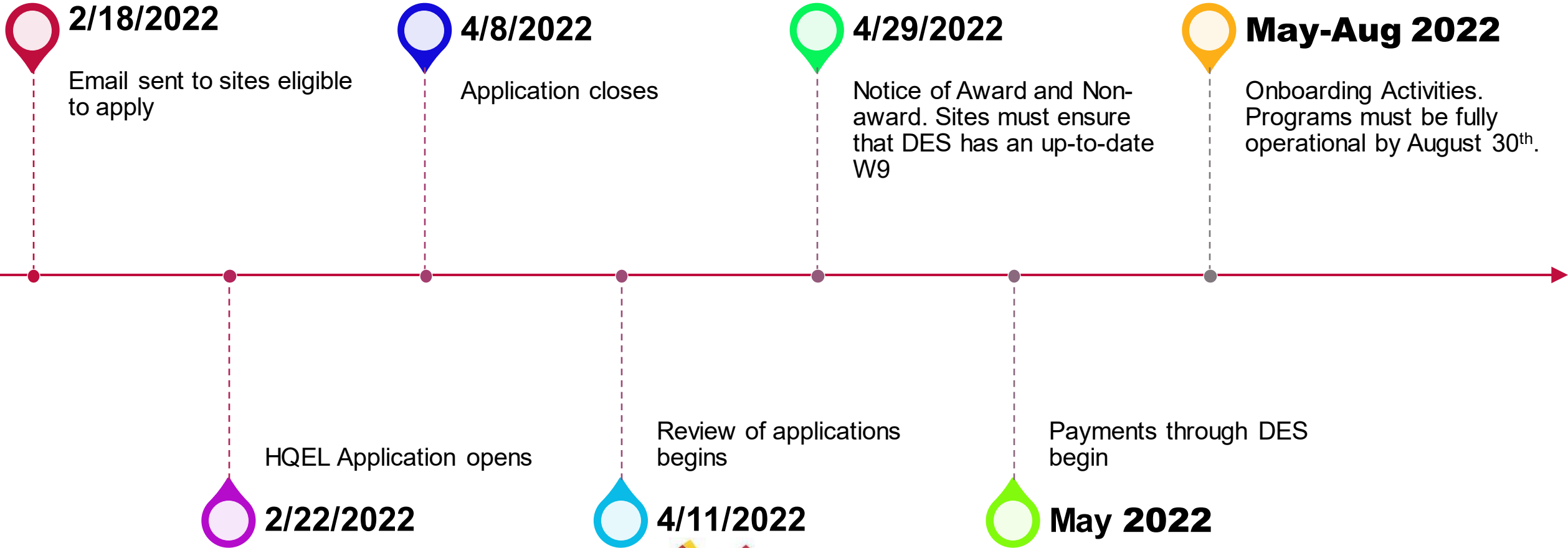


On-boarding Activities

- HQEL Guidance Manual Review
- Overview of the ECQUIP Process
- On-going Progress Monitoring
- Kindergarten Transition
- Reporting Requirements
- Monitoring Elements
- Staffing
- Written Policy Supports
- Coaching Overview
- Professional Development Overview



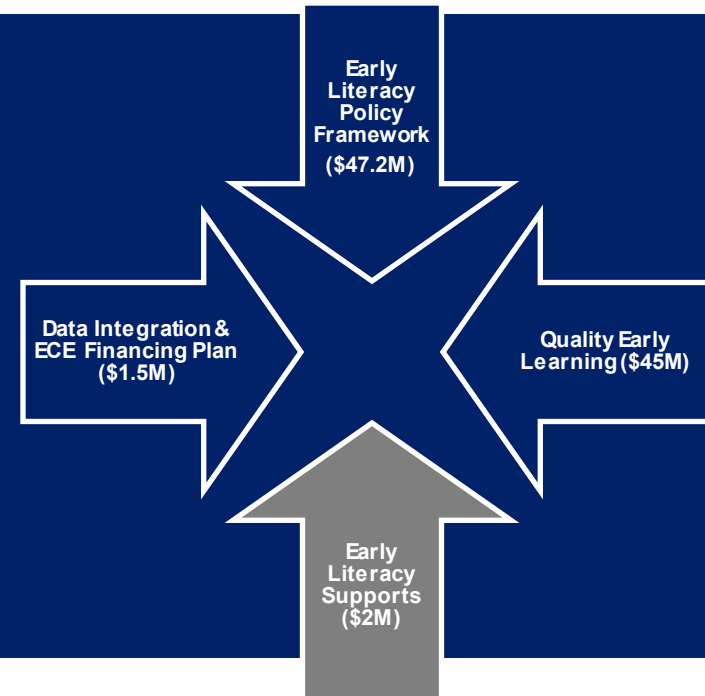
Timeline



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Early Literacy Supports



Read On Arizona (ROA)



About Read On Arizona

Read On Arizona is a statewide, public/private partnership of agencies, philanthropic organizations, and community stakeholders committed to creating an effective continuum of services to improve language and literacy outcomes for Arizona's children from birth through age eight over the next ten years. Read On Arizona is committed to helping create an early literacy system that delivers the right program at the right time for every child.



Dolly Parton Imagination Library (DPIL)



About Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

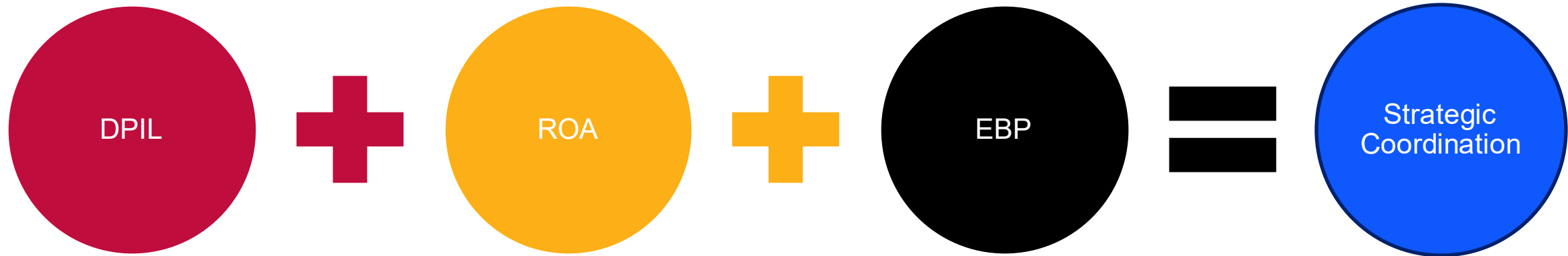
Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is a book gifting program that mails free, high-quality books to children from birth to age five, no matter their family's income.

After launching in 1995, the program grew quickly. First books were only distributed to children living in Sevier County, Tennessee where Dolly grew up. It became such a success that in 2000 a national replication effort was underway. By 2003, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library had mailed one million books. It would prove to be the first of many millions of books sent to children around the world.

Dolly's home state of Tennessee pledged to pursue statewide coverage in 2004 and global expansion was on the horizon. After the [United States](#), the program launched in [Canada](#) in 2006 followed by the [United Kingdom](#) in 2007, [Australia](#) in 2013 and the [Republic of Ireland](#) in 2019.



Book Distribution





HQEL Questions:

<https://ideaboardz.com/for/High%20Quality%20Early%20Learning/4335558>





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WWW.AZED.GOV/ECE/HQEL

