

**Topical Heading**  
Reading

**Program Title**

# Reading First

**Also Known as**  
Reading First State Grants

**CFDA # (or ED #)**  
84.357

**Administering Office**  
Office of Elementary and Secondary Education (OESE)

**Who May Apply (by category)**  
State Education Agencies (SEAs)

**Who May Apply (specifically)**  
Funds are awarded to SEAs. Eligible local education agencies (LEAs) apply to SEAs for subgrants.

**Type of Assistance (by category)**  
Formula Grants

## Appropriations

Fiscal Year 2006 \$1,029,234,000

Fiscal Year 2007 \$1,029,234,000

Fiscal Year 2008 \$393,012,000

## Fiscal Year 2008 Awards Information

*Note: The Department is not bound by any estimates in this notice.*

Number of New Awards Anticipated: 57

Average Continuation Award: \$6,634,854

Range of Continuation Awards: \$226,541–\$48,453,409

## Legislative Citation

*Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), as amended, Title I, Part B, Subpart 1*

## Program Regulations

*EDGAR*

## Program Description

This program focuses on putting proven methods of early reading instruction in classrooms. Through Reading First, states and districts receive support to apply scientifically based reading research—and the proven instructional and assessment tools consistent with this research—to ensure that all children learn to read well by the end of third grade. The program provides formula grants to states that submit an approved application. SEAs award subgrants to eligible LEAs on a competitive basis. SEAs fund those proposals that show the most promise for raising student achievement and for successful implementation of reading instruction, particularly at the classroom level. Only programs that are founded on scientifically based reading research are eligible for funding through Reading First. Funds are allocated to states according to the proportion of children aged 5 to 17 who reside within the state and who are from families with incomes below the poverty line, except that no state may receive less than one-fourth of 1 percent of the total amount available for state grants.

The U.S. Department of Education is authorized to reserve 0.5 percent of Reading First funds for awards to the outlying areas (American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands) and 0.5 percent to be awarded to the U.S. Department of Interior's Bureau of Indian Education. Beginning in FY 2004, for any fiscal year in which the amount appropriated for the program exceeds the amount appropriated in FY 2003, the Department of Education reserves the lesser of \$90 million or 10 percent of the excess amount for Targeted Assistance grants. The Department also is authorized to reserve up to 2.5 percent of the amount appropriated for any fiscal year, to a maximum of \$25 million, for national activities and program evaluation and \$5 million for information dissemination activities.

**Types of Projects**

This program provides assistance to states and districts to establish scientifically based reading programs for students enrolled in kindergarten through grade 3. Funds support increased professional development to ensure that all teachers have the skills they need to teach these programs effectively. The program also supports the use of screening and diagnostic tools and classroom-based instructional reading assessments to measure how well students are reading and to monitor their progress.

**Education Level (by category)**

Elementary

**Education Level (specifically)**

K-3

**Subject Index**

Reading

**Contact Information**

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**Links to Related Web Sites**

<http://www.ed.gov/programs/readingfirst/index.html>