

## ABSTRACT

The Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) is applying under Absolute Priority 1 for [REDACTED] from the Education Stabilization Fund-Rethink K-12 Education Models Discretionary Grant Program from 9/1/2020-8/31/2023. LDOE serves 716,416 students in 1,400 schools in 160 Local Education Agencies (LEAs). LDOE will provide funding through microgrants for parents to meet the educational needs of their children in the early grades (Pre-K to 3rd grade) through increased access to high-quality remote learning programs, tutoring, and the devices/internet connectivity needed for those services. 75,000-87,500 students annually will access microgrants for remote learning resources, and at least 12,000 families will receive devices or hotspots through this program. The student achievement goals for the program are: the percentage of “disadvantaged children” (as defined below) prepared to enter kindergarten ready to read increases by 18% as measured by the Language and Literacy indicators on the PreK end-of-year benchmark assessment (GOLD) (for students below age 5), and the percentage of “disadvantaged children” in Grade 3 achieving Mastery in Reading increases 12% as measured by the state’s ELA assessment ( for students K-5). The program will commit 85% of microgrants to students from low-income backgrounds and in schools in need of intervention. Providers on the portal will work closely with LEAs and parents to ensure that the portal promotes continuity of learning for students across all settings.

This application addresses all six application requirements:

1. The applicant is applying under Absolute Priority 1. LDOE will provide funding through microgrants to allow parents to meet the educational needs of their school-age children through increased access to high-quality remote learning.
2. LDOE outlines the primary needs satisfied by this project: lost instruction in spring 2020, the digital divide, a lack of quality remote resources for learning, opportunity gaps in Louisiana among early learners, and low parent support in supporting remote learning.
3. Louisiana's coronavirus burden is extremely high, based on the statistics shared in the Notice Inviting Applications, and the economic, educational, and health consequences cited in this application.
4. LDOE has committed significant state assets, in collaboration with parents, Local Education Agencies (LEAs) and nonprofits, to support student learning outcomes during the COVID-19 pandemic.
5. LDOE provides all needed assurances, including as requested for evaluations that the Secretary may carry out.
6. LDOE demonstrates support for this project through a letter signed by Governor John Bel Edwards.