



Midwestern Legislative Conference

THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS

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Resolution on Future of Federal Investments in State-Led Literacy Programs

- WHEREAS,** the Comprehensive Literacy State Development (CLSD) Grant Program, first authorized in 2015 as part of the U.S. Every Student Succeeds Act, funds state literacy initiatives nationwide; and
- WHEREAS,** the CLSD program provides discretionary federal grants to help states create or improve literacy programs for children from birth through grade 12, with an emphasis on children who face greater challenges, including those living in poverty, English learners, and children with disabilities; and
- WHEREAS,** a total of \$194 million in CLSD grants were awarded in FY 2024 to 22 states and the District of Columbia, including \$28.4 million for state-led literacy programs in the Midwestern states of Iowa, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio and South Dakota (Michigan and Minnesota also have secured CLSD grants in fiscal years prior to 2024); and
- WHEREAS,** states have been at the forefront of national efforts to strengthen reading and literacy instruction and to improve student achievement, particularly through recent new laws, investments and policies that align with the science of reading; and
- WHEREAS,** Legislation has been proposed in the U.S. Congress to modernize the CLSD program to reflect recent state-led advances in literacy policy; now, therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** that the Midwestern Legislative Conference (MLC) supports continued congressional funding of the Comprehensive Literacy State Development (CLSD) Grant Program;
- RESOLVED,** that the MLC supports a modernization of the CLSD Grant Program by the U.S. Congress that ties the allocation of discretionary federal grants to:
- state evaluations of teacher preparation programs to ensure alignment with the science of reading;
 - state requirements that, as a condition of licensure or certification, kindergarten through eighth-grade teachers responsible for teaching foundational literacy

demonstrate proficiency in literacy instruction aligned with the science of reading as identified by the state;

- a parental-notification requirement when a child is identified as at risk of reading difficulties or performing below grade level; and
- the use of evidence-based interventions, such as high-impact tutoring and summer learning programs; early literacy screening, including for dyslexia, before third grade; high-quality instructional materials; educator engagement and input; and the collection and public reporting of implementation and outcome data;

RESOLVED, that the MLC urges the U.S. Congress to maintain CLSD grant funding without establishing set-asides for low-performing states (few, if any, Midwestern states would qualify for these set-asides as based upon student results on the National Assessment of Educational Progress); and

RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be transmitted to members of the relevant committees in the U.S. Congress, to members of the congressional delegations in each of the 11 Midwestern states, and to the U.S. Department of Education.