***Year 1 [FY26] July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026***

## ***Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education FY2026***

| **Name of Grant Program:**  Partnership for Reading Success – Massachusetts (PRISM) II | **Fund Code:** 0593 |
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# PRISM Image **PRISM II - Track 2 Budgeting Guide**

This attachment provides full details about how PRISM II funds may be used. This grant will provide funding as well as hands-on support from Department specialists for up to two years for recipients to improve early literacy teaching and learning and accomplish the activities listed in the RFP.

**PRISM II Track 2 is for LEAs who have not engaged in a comprehensive evaluation and selection process and are ready to evaluate, select and purchase curricular materials in SY25-26.**

**PRISM II Track 2** LEAs/consortia will receive funds for evaluating, selecting, and purchasing materials in FY26 (Year 1) and funds for implementation support in FY27 (Year 2).

Please read the rest of this document for details on PRISM II – Year 1 funding. Please note that all PRISM-funded purchases MUST be pre-approved by DESE before they are made by the LEA.

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## Funds Provided to Awarded LEAs for Track 2 – Year 1 (FY26: Upon Approval – June 30, 2026)

1. **Stipends for Educators to serve on the PRISM Curriculum Council:** The PRISM Curriculum Council will work together to coordinate and enact the multi-year work of this initiative across schools. Funds may be budgeted for educators to serve on the PRISM Curriculum Council, to cover:
   1. Stipends for time above and beyond contracted time to serve on the PRISM Curriculum Council (e.g., attend PRISM Curriculum Council meetings, work on plans, facilitate meetings and/or presentations).

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| **GEM$ Budgeting Note**  Use the PRISM II Calculator to generate the amount for Stipends. The cap is $2,000 per school.  On GEM$, enter the amount for Stipends in Object Code 01: Professional Salaries (non-MTRS) for Function Code LDRS (Instructional Leaders), Function Code TCHR (Teachers), and/or Function Code PARA (Paraprofessionals) depending on who will be on the PRISM Curriculum Council. |

*LEAs will have the choice of budgeting for stipends and/or substitute coverage. LEAs should consider which of the two options is the most practical approach for their unique context. LEAs may split the amount amongst the two categories within the caps named. The cap is $15,000 per school for K-3. If you are including PreK, the cap is $18,000 per school.*

1. **Stipends for Educators to support PRISM work beyond contractual hours or duties:** Many educators working on early literacy (e.g., classroom teachers, community-based preschool teachers, special educators, ESL teachers, administrators, leaders of community-based preschools, coaches) will participate in PRISM II planning and professional learning in Year 1. These funds may be budgeted to stipend educators, including educators from LEA and community-based PreK partners, for their PRISM-related work beyond contractual hours or duties, if needed. The following educators can be stipended from this grant for their work outside contract hours:
   1. Teachers, including general education teachers, special education teachers, ESL teachers, including teachers working in community-based preschool providers.
   2. Paraprofessionals and teaching assistants, including those working in community-based preschool providers.
   3. Instructional coaches, reading specialists, reading interventionists, including those working in community-based preschool providers.

A portion of these funds may be used to stipend leaders and educators from community-based PreK programs so that they can fully participate in professional development, action planning, etc. Please note that for some LEAs, stipends for community-based PreK providers will require the development of a contract between the LEA and the community-based provider.

1. **Substitute Coverage funding for educators to support PRISM II work during contractual hours:** In lieu of educator stipends described in part 2 of this document, LEAs may elect to budget for substitute teachers, to offer release time for educators to participate in grant activities.

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| **GEM$ Budgeting Note**  Use the PRISM II Calculator to generate the amount for Stipends OR Substitute Coverage. The cap is $15,000 per school for K-3. If you are including PreK, there is an additional $3,000 cap per school.  On GEM$, enter the amount for Stipends in Object Code 01: Professional Salaries (non-MTRS) for Function Code LDRS (Instructional Leaders), Function Code TCHR (Teachers), and/or Function Code PARA (Paraprofessionals) depending on who will need stipends to complete FY25 PRISM grant programming.  On GEM$, enter the amount for Substitute Coverage in Object Code 03: Other Salaries for Function Code TSER (Other Teaching Services). |

1. **Purchase of selected curricular materials.** Recipients will procure the selected high-quality curricular materials for all classrooms in all schools participating in the grant. For K-3, these curricular materials must be rated as follows on [CURATE](https://www.doe.mass.edu/instruction/curate/):
   1. Standards Alignment: *Meets expectations* in all criteria (or *N/A* for Foundational Skills, when applicable) **and**
   2. Classroom Application: *Meets/Partially meets expectations* in all criteria.

This grant will fund half the cost of procurement of ELA/Literacy curricular materials, including curricular materials for preschool, with the remaining portion paid by the applicant. PreK-specific materials may be either ELA/literacy-specific or comprehensive depending on the materials selected. Please note that there are financial caps in place for this line item. LEAs/consortia cannot exceed this financial cap ($400,000 total), even if the financial cap is below 50% of the total approved itemized quote.,

For preschool, the selected curricular materials must “meet” or “partially meet” expectations for quality according to EEC’s Curriculum Rubric. The selected curricular materials must be high-quality as defined above. For digital materials, this grant will fund the purchase of student licenses for a minimum of 2 years and a maximum of 4 years. For open-source preschool curricula, this grant will fund the purchase of books and other materials.

LEAs/consortia will need to submit an itemized quote for approval.

* If the selected HQIM for K-3 does not include a foundational skills curricular resource (e.g., Wit and Wisdom), the grant will fund 50% of a foundational skills curricular resource.
* LEAs will also have the option of selecting and implementing Appleseeds materials for reading foundational skills at no cost (see below).
* Purchase of ELA/Literacy curricular materials for K-3 may be for:
  + A single, comprehensive core program that addresses all components of the literacy block and is high-quality across the board
  + A strong foundational skills resource, such as Appleseeds if the LEA already has a high-quality comprehension and writing program that does not include foundational skills

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| **GEM$ Budgeting Note**  Use the PRISM II Calculator to generate the estimate by entering the number of classrooms in the LEA to create an estimate. The cap is $400,000 per LEA/consortium. On GEM$, please enter the amount in Object Code 07: Equipment for Function Code MATL (Instructional Materials and Technology). |

1. **Purchase of 100% of Appleseeds materials for reading foundational skills.** For LEAs/consortia that select high-quality core instructional materials that do not include a Foundational Skills component (e.g., Fishtank Plus, Wit & Wisdom), this grant will fund 100% of the cost of *Appleseeds: Evidence-Based Foundational Skills for Massachusetts*, a complete package of instructional materials for reading foundational skills in Kindergarten through Grade 2 which is openly available through DESE.

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| **GEM$ Budgeting Note**  Use the PRISM II Calculator to generate the amount for Appleseeds if choosing to select.  On GEM$, please enter the amount in Object Code 07: Equipment for Function Code MATL (Instructional Materials and Technology). |

1. **Leadership Coaching.** Each LEA/consortium will work with a PRISM Curriculum & Instruction Coach that has been pre-approved and selected by DESE to support the establishment of the PRISM Curriculum Council, as well as the systems, structures, and roles needed to support HQIM implementation. the PRISM Curriculum & Instruction Coach can provide leadership coaching and support including, but not limited to the following activities:
   1. Set up the PRISM Curriculum Council, systems, structures, and roles within the LEA to support HQIM launch and implementation, as well as lesson preparation, coaching, and feedback cycles.
   2. Support the LEA’s participation in [**DESE’s Evaluate and Select HQIM Network**](https://www.doe.mass.edu/instruction/impd/implement-ma.html)for the entirety of the 25-26 school year
   3. Conduct a collaborative Landscape analysis, aligned to DESE’s [IMplement MA process](https://www.doe.mass.edu/rlo/instruction/implement-ma-process/story.html), to identify the current realities of curriculum and instruction in the core ELA/Literacy block. This analysis will be the foundation of the development and refinement of the LEAs PRISM Literacy Plan.

This grant will fund the Coaches’ services. Recipients are expected to engage with and receive support from their PRISM coach regularly for the entire grant program period and throughout the calendar year.The LEA/consortium is responsible for developing and executing a contract with the pre-approved PRISM Curriculum & Instruction Coach. The funds to cover this contract will be provided by the grant. DESE is not a party to this contract.

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| **GEM$ Budgeting Note**  On GEM$, please enter $51,000 in Object Code 04MC: Contracted Services (major) for Function Code PDEV (Professional Development) |

1. **Curriculum-based Professional Learning.** Professional development to support evidence-based, inclusive, and culturally and linguistically sustaining implementation of the new curricular materials from the LEA/consortium’s DESE-approved PRISM Curriculum & Instruction Coach. The PRISM Curriculum & Instruction Coach can provide curriculum-based professional learning on, but not limited to, (a) professional learning to build understanding of design and intent of curricular materials and shared expectations for excellent implementation; (b) professional learning for PreK-3 educators to deepen understanding of evidence-based early literacy practices, engage in Unit and Lesson Internalizations, and practice key instructional routines, such as Student Work Analysis.

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| **GEM$ Budgeting Note**  Use the PRISM II Calculator to generate the amount for Curriculum-based Professional Learning. In B3, on the calculator, enter the number of schools in your LEA/consortium. The amount of funding available will be based on the number of schools.  On GEM$, please enter the amount in Object Code 04MC: Contracted Services (major) for Function Code PDEV (Professional Development) |

## Future years of PRISM II

LEAs/consortia awarded PRISM II in FY26 will be able to apply for a continuation into FY27 (Track 2) *pending funding availability*. Continuation funding is not guaranteed. FY27 Continuation funding is based on available funds and progress through PRISM II activities. If awarded continuation grants, PRISM II awardees will receive funding to support the following components.

**Track 2 - Year 2 (July 2026 to June 2027):**

**DESE-approved and selected PRISM Curriculum & Instruction Coach**

1. Leadership coaching/consultation from a DESE-approved and selected PRISM Curriculum & Instruction Coach to support the refinement and enactment of a PRISM Literacy Plan, aligned to DESE’s [IMplement MA process](https://www.doe.mass.edu/rlo/instruction/implement-ma-process/story.html).
2. Leadership coaching/consultation from a DESE-approved PRISM Curriculum & Instruction Coach to:
   1. Establish lesson prep routines (Looking at Student Work Analysis, Lesson Internalization, Unit Unpacking, Instructional Walkthroughs)
   2. Engage in regular progress monitoring and goal setting based on walkthroughs, lesson prep cycle, and implementation plan
3. Curriculum-based professional learning provided by PRISM Curriculum & Instruction Coach to support evidence-based, inclusive, and culturally and linguistically sustaining implementation of the new curricular materials.

**Staff Costs**

1. Stipends are available for PRISM Curriculum Council members. This team will work together to coordinate and enact the multi-year work of this initiative, across schools if applicable.
2. Educators’ time, either through:
   1. the use of stipends for educators’ time above and beyond contracted time, or
   2. funds to hire additional staff to offer grant-participating staff release time from their other responsibilities.