***Year 1 [FY26] July 1, 2025 – August 31, 2025***

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

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| **Name of Grant Program:**  Partnership for Reading Success – Massachusetts (PRISM) III | **Fund Code:** 0594 |

# Image of a prism **PRISM III Track 3 Budgeting Guide**

This attachment provides full details about how PRISM III Track 3 funds may be used. This grant will provide funding as well as hands-on support from Department specialists for up to three and half years for recipients to improve literacy teaching and learning and accomplish the activities listed in the RFP.

**PRISM III Track 3 is for LEAs that already have HQIM in their selected grade band and are seeking support for implementing materials effectively.**

**PRISM III Track 3** LEAs/consortia will receive a modest amount of funding for FY26 (Year 1) to use for building strategy, scheduling and professional learning. If awarded continuation, Track 3 LEAs/consortia will then receive funds for implementation support in FY26 (Year 2) and FY27 (Year 3).

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

**Important Note**

“High-quality core curricular materials” for ELA/Literacy are defined as having a rating of Meeting Expectations for the Standards Alignment domain and a rating of Meeting or Partially Meeting Expectations for Classroom Application on a [CURATE](https://www.doe.mass.edu/instruction/curate/) review.

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## Funds Provided to Awarded LEAs for Track 3 – Year 1 (FY25: July 1, 2025 – August 31, 2025)

1. **Stipends for Educators to participate 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 III Track 3 Budget 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) |

1. **Stipends for Educators to support PRISM work beyond contractual hours or duties:** Many educators working on literacy (e.g., classroom teachers, special educators, ESL teachers, administrators, coaches) will participate in PRISM III planning and professional learning in Year 1. These funds may be budgeted to stipend educators 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
   2. Paraprofessionals and teaching assistants
   3. Instructional coaches, reading specialists, reading interventionists
   4. School and/or district-based administrators
2. **Substitute Coverage funding for educators to support PRISM III 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.

*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 below.* If choosing this option, please use a portion (or all) of the amount available for Stipends, as outlined in section 2 of this document.

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| **GEM$ Budgeting Note**  Use the PRISM III Track 3 Calculator to generate the amount for Stipends OR Substitute Coverage. The cap is $7,500 per school.  On GEM$, 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. **Leadership Coaching.** Each LEA/consortium will work with a PRISM Curriculum & Instruction Coach that has been pre-approved and selected by DESE. It is expected that the PRISM Curriculum and Instruction Coach will collaborate with the LEA to conduct a landscape analysis, aligned to DESE’s [IMplement MA process](https://www.doe.mass.edu/rlo/instruction/implement-ma-process/story.html), of 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. Specifically, the PRISM Curriculum & Instruction Coach can provide leadership coaching and support including, but not limited to
   1. initial planning, goal setting, clarifying expectations, vertical alignment, clarifying roles and responsibilities, scheduling, understanding local context, and establishing work plans for FY26 work;
   2. selecting and developing a qualified, diverse, and comprehensive PRISM Curriculum Council to lead the work of the PRISM grant over the next few years.

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 $15,000 in Object Code 04MC: Contracted Services (major) for Function Code PDEV (Professional Development) |

1. **Curriculum-based Professional Learning.** 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 educators to deepen understanding of evidence-based 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 III Track 3 Calculator to generate the amount for Curriculum-based Professional Learning. In B3 of the budget calculator, please enter the number of schools in your LEA and the number of PD days (not to exceed 2) you intend to utilize in July – August 2025. That will automatically calculate the amount available for curriculum-based professional learning in year 1.  On GEM$, please enter the amount in Object Code 04MC: Contracted Services (major) for Function Code PDEV (Professional Development) |

## Future years of PRISM III

LEAs awarded PRISM III in FY26 will be able to apply for a continuation into FY26 (9/1/25 - 9/30/26), FY27 (10/1/26 - 9/30/27), and/or FY28 (10/1/27-9/30/28), *pending funding availability*. Continuation funding is not guaranteed. FY26 Continuation funding is based on available funds and progress through PRISM activities. If awarded continuation grants, PRISM awardees will receive funding to support the following components. Possible funded activities for continuation grants include:

**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 for substitutes to offer grant-participating staff release time from their other responsibilities.

**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. 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.
   2. Establish lesson prep routines (Looking at Student Work Analysis, Lesson Internalization, Unit Unpacking, Instructional Walkthroughs)
   3. Engage in regular progress monitoring and goal setting based on walkthroughs, lesson prep cycle, and PRISM Literacy Plan
3. Curriculum-based professional learning provided by PRISM Curriculum & Instruction Coach to support evidence-based, inclusive, and culturally and linguistically sustaining implementation of high-quality curricular materials.