



Frequently Asked Questions about the Intel Online Learning Initiative: Creating Connections Application

ELIGIBILITY

Q. Does a non-profit Title I afterschool program qualify to apply?

A. An afterschool program could be a co-applicant on an application or could benefit from the program, but they cannot apply on their own. An individual from district leadership, an LEA, or an ESA must be the lead applicant.

Q. For Federal and State funding purposes, charter schools are often considered LEAs. Does First Book consider charter schools to be LEAs for eligibility for this grant?

A. Yes, charter schools may apply, but please make sure the application is submitted by someone in the charter network leadership.

Q. Are Special Education programs eligible? / We are a non-profit pre-school, two elementary schools and a secondary school; schools that provide differentiated education to include special needs and other extraordinary characteristics of children that need special attention. Do they qualify?

A. Yes, special education programs and differentiated education programs are eligible for First Book and may apply, however please be sure that someone in an administrative leadership position submits the application.

Q. Are high schools eligible? My district is a Title 1 district.

A. Yes, but individual schools should coordinate with district leadership to submit an application on their behalf. Someone from district leadership must submit the application.

Q. We have 6 out of 10 elementary schools in our district that receive Title I funds. Are we still eligible to apply?

A. Yes, but you should clearly indicate in your application how you will ensure that the laptops and STEAM kits only go to schools that receive Title I funds.

Q. Must schools receive Title I funds to be eligible for this program?

A. District leadership can apply on behalf of Title I or Title I eligible schools (a school that is eligible for Title I funding but does not currently receive Title I funding). The families benefiting from these resources must attend Title I or Title I eligible schools.

Q. Can a private school can apply for this program?

A. You must be eligible to receive First Book resources in order to qualify for this program. You can view eligibility criteria and register for free at www.firstbook.org/cc. District Leadership may find this [step-by-step guide](#) to registration helpful.

Q. Is this opportunity available for Early Childhood Education programs that are housed in an LEA school?

A. This opportunity is open to districts serving PreK – 12th graders.

Q. Is this opportunity for public schools or also for non-for-profit educational organizations? / Are childcare centers eligible? If not, why not? / Are non-profit community centers eligible?

A. This program is only available to school districts, LEAs, and ESAs serving PreK – 12th graders. Nonprofits can work with local district leadership to apply and be the secondary contact on a joint application. The primary contact must be the district LEA, ESA or someone in district leadership. Because of the complexity of PC configuration and the need to align that configuration with district standards and support, we are asking that LEAs, ESAs or the appropriate district leader be the primary applicant.

Q. Is there a district financial match required?

A. No match is required.

Q. Would State specific RESC's with Magnet schools be considered an LEA?

A. Yes, as long as the schools that will benefit from the program would traditionally qualify for First Book. You can learn more about eligibility criteria at www.firstbook.org/cc. District Leadership may find this [step-by-step guide](#) to registration helpful.

APPLICATION/GRANT PROCESS

Q. What is your definition of an LEA?

A. LEA's are Local Education Agencies. First Book uses the definition given by the U.S. Department of Education: As defined in ESEA, a public board of education or other public authority legally constituted within a State for either administrative control or direction of, or to perform a service function for, public elementary schools or secondary schools in a city, county, township, school district, or other political subdivision of a State, or for a combination of school districts or counties recognized in a State as an administrative agency for its public elementary schools or secondary schools.

Q. What are the evaluation criteria for selecting grantees?

A. Applicants should carefully read the entire [RFP](#), which contains a detailed description of everything that we are looking for in an application. Evaluations will focus on the following criteria: • Shares a clear vision for who these PCs and Lego Education Solutions will most impact; • Demonstrates a clear plan for implementation and distribution of resources; • Demonstrates a clear plan for internet support; • Demonstrates a clear plan to support the child's education using these resources; • Shows a clear plan

to address inequality and fill gaps resulting from COVID-19; • Includes a clear plan to collect evidence of impact following PC and LEGO Education Solutions distribution; • Provides a clear commitment and plan to connect eligible educators and providers to the First Book Network through registration; and • Demonstrates a potential for the LEA/ESA/district leadership's ongoing partnership with First Book.

Q. Will the grant selection be a lottery selection?

A. No, applications will be rigorously evaluated and selected according to the criteria outlined in the [RFP](#).

Q. Where can we find a copy of the application questions?

A. The application can be viewed and completed electronically at <https://firstbook.smapply.io/prog/CCapply/>, and here is the [RFP](#) that provides guidance on filling out the application.

Q. I work as the Youth Services Director at a nonprofit org that has EHS, HS, 21st CCLC afterschool programs, and parent pay afterschool programs. Can I apply as the lead and have the school district as second?

A. The school district should be the primary applicant.

Q. How can several staff people access a district application? Should we use one account and password?

A. Yes, you may share an account and password.

Q. How much time would you say the application process takes?

A. The application can be found [here](#), and the RFP that provides guidance on filling out the application can be found [here](#). The time it takes you to fill out the application really varies by applicant.

Q. Can we ask for a grant smaller than 350 PC's? We are a smaller district and would need only about 250.

A. Yes

Q. Will applicants who request the Lego materials be given preference?

A. No preference will be given to those requesting LEGO Education Solutions.

PRODUCT RELATED

Q. Are the robots the EV3 kits? Is it one kit per student?

A. You can choose to request enough kits for each classroom, or enough kits to provide a kit to each student. We are leaving this to the district's discretion, but if you do choose to send kits home, we are asking you to outline your plan to prevent loss and resale of the units.

Q. Do the devices remain with the family or do they become district property?

A. The units remain a property of the school district and can be loaned out to families in need. However, it is up to you to manage distribution and collection of the units.

REPORTING

Q. How many reporting components will there be if awarded? Will there be monthly reporting? Will there just be end-of-year follow-up?

A. There are not monthly reporting requirements, but we will follow-up to ask about the impact of your program and request any survey results, photos, video, or family testimonials that you have at some point in the fall, so that we can highlight the impact of this gift to the funders who made it possible. As part of your application, you are asked to provide a plan for reporting on the impact of this gift for the families you serve. You will likely also be asked to complete a brief survey in the fall.