

Gridley Unified School District

Educator Effectiveness Block Grant Plan 2021-22 to 2025-26

Background

Education Code 41480 adopted as part of the 2021 budget trailer bills appropriated funds for this block grant, amounting to \$522,610 as the GUSD share of funding. This funding is limited in scope to providing professional development experiences to certificated and classified staff having direct contact with pupils to improve the quality of education received. Funds may be spent to support such activities from the 21-22 fiscal year through the conclusion of the 2025-26 fiscal year, with a final report due by September 30, 2026. A number of specific allowable uses are outlined in EC 41480, with the stipulation that any professional development be content-focused and sustained in nature and support the various academic standards outlined in specified additional education codes.

Planned Expenditures

The preliminary plan for GUSD's use of the funds are to support several pre-existing initiatives already outlined in other district planning documents (LCAP, ELO Grant, and ESSER III Plan) and funded largely through one-time money that expires prior to the block grant funding. The block grant funding will allow sustainability of these other planned activities beyond their initial expiration. Specific planned uses of the District's allocated \$522,610 are as follows:

- \$400,000 Elementary and Secondary Instructional Coaches (2 FTE)**
Supports an additional two years each of an elementary and a secondary instructional coach (Teacher on Special Assignment) as outlined in the ESSER III Expenditure Plan. Coaches may provide support focused around new teacher retention, literacy strategies or other district initiatives, and the use of instructional technology both for direct instruction of students and in supporting data analysis. ESSER III funds must be obligated by September 30, 2024; this block grant funding will extend the positions into 2024-25 and 2025-26 school years.
- \$100,000 Two Additional Professional Development Days (paid at per diem rate)**
Supports two additional days of all-day professional development for certificated and/or classified employees during adjacent to the regular school year, as outlined in the ELO Grant and ESSER III Plans. Those funding sources expire collectively prior to the start of the 25-26 school year. This block grant will permit an additional two days of in-house professional development to occur for district staff.
- \$22,610 Set Aside for Curricular Development**
Supports a set aside of funding for in-house curricular development around the state content standards as determined through a local needs assessment process. Potential topics include but are not limited to in-house development of the new Ethnic Studies curriculum required in California, local development and adoption of elementary science curriculum, local development and adoption of socio-emotional learning curriculum, and/or local development of transitional kindergarten materials.

*Above amounts subject to revision and do not reflect pending confirmation of allowable reduction for indirect costs