Request for Applications

Applications Due: **Wednesday, April 16, 2025, by 11:59 pm**

Application Information Webinar: **Thursday, February 20, 2025, 10-11 am**

2025-2026
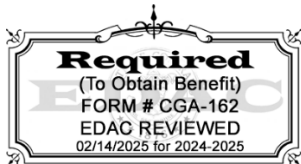## Early Literacy Assessment Tool (ELAT) Project

Request For Applicants (RFA)

Pursuant to C.R.S. 22-2-141

Program Questions:
Megan Prior Rogers
(720) 326-2880 | elat@cde.state.co.us

Required
(To Obtain Benefit)
FORM # CGA-162
EDAC REVIEWED
02/14/2025 for 2024-2025

Introduction

The 2012 School Finance Act required the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) to select a contractor to supply an early literacy assessment tool that teachers may use to obtain real-time assessments of the reading skill levels of students in kindergarten through third grade. The intent of the program was to support state purchase of software that would provide individualized assessments with immediate results, store and analyze those results, and recommend activities based on those results.

In 2023, through a competitive process, CDE awarded the Early Literacy Assessment Tool (ELAT) Project to Amplify. The contract duration is five years, through June 2028. Pending legislative approval, CDE will offer the ELAT Project for the 2025-2026 school year. This is a non-competitive project.

By participating in the ELAT Project, applicants will be supplied with the online tool mCLASS to support DIBELS 8th Edition and mCLASS Lectura, approved interim assessments for the READ Act. All approved applicants will receive software licenses to use the assessments. The online tool, mCLASS, will store and analyze the results and recommend school and home activities based on those results.

Hardware is not included: Applicants will be responsible for providing their own hardware. A list of hardware devices that support the software is available here.

Purpose

The ELAT Project is designed to assist teachers in meeting the assessment requirements of the READ Act. The online tool, mCLASS, will allow teachers to obtain real time assessment of the reading skill levels of students enrolled in kindergarten, first, second, and/or third grades. Based on assessment results, mCLASS will generate intervention plans and materials to support students.

The online tool, mCLASS, will:
   a) Provide individualized assessments with immediate results;
   b) Store and analyze assessment results, recommend activities that are aligned with the assessment results, and assist in tracking student performance and identifying strategies to improve student performance;
   c) Provide student grouping recommendations based on the assessment scores and provide proposed lesson plans on a short-term cycle; and
   d) Assist in generating and populating individualized plans to improve students' reading skills.

Eligible Applicants

All Colorado local education providers (LEPs) are eligible to apply to participate in the ELAT Project. For purposes of this application, "local education provider" means a school district; a charter school authorized through a district or the Charter School Institute (CSI); a public school within a district applying as a standalone applicant; or a public school operated by a board of cooperative services (BOCES). The applicant must enroll students in kindergarten, first, second, and/or third grades. Applications may be submitted for a single school or multiple schools within a district, CSI, or BOCES.

CDE is accepting applications from both new and renewal applicants. If the number of applicants exceeds the number of available licenses, prioritization will occur pursuant to C.R.S. 22-2-14.
   1. First preference will be given to LEPs renewing their participation from the 2024-2025 school year; then new LEP applicants will be accepted.

2. Should there need to be a selection process for new LEPs, it will be based on highest percentages of kindergarten and first-, second-, and third-grade students who are below grade level expectations in reading; and LEPs with the highest percentages of schools that are eligible to receive money under Title I of the federal "Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965", 20 U.S.C. sec 6301 et seq.

Duration of Program

The current request for applications (RFA) will apply to the 2025-2026 school year, Year 13 of the ELAT Project. Participation in subsequent years is dependent upon appropriations and available licenses. Participants must apply each year to continue or begin participating in the ELAT Project.

Required Activities

School- and district-level activities required of the ELAT Project include the following:
- Complete and submit ELAT Project application.
- Obtain and utilize supported devices to assess all kindergarten, first, second, and/or third graders on the approved interim assessment. (**Note: hardware purchase is the LEP's responsibility.**)
- Collect and secure submission of staff and student roster data to the vendor.
  - o Enter the following student identifier information: name, grade, date of birth, 10-digit State Assigned Student ID (SASID), state, school district, school, classroom association(s), student email, gender, ethnicity, English language status, and eligibility for special education services and section 504.
  - o Enter the following staff identifier information: name and staff email address.
- Assess all kindergarten, first, second, and third grade students using the interim assessment(s) at the three designated benchmark periods. Failure to do so within the designated benchmark periods may result in forfeiture of student licenses, training, and/or other related supports provided through the project.
- Progress monitor students: Students scoring Well Below Benchmark must be progress monitored every 7-10 instructional days, and students scoring Below Benchmark must be progress monitored every 10-12 instructional days.
- Attendance by teachers, principals, instructional leaders, or designated local trainers per school at all required professional development to support continued implementation of DIBELS 8th Edition and/or mCLASS Lectura and platform upgrade(s).
- Attendance by ELAT contacts at all required onboarding webinars to support setup of ELAT and school rosters.

Anyone new to the assessment platform and/or new to the ELAT Project must also complete the following additional requirements:
- Attendance by teachers or designated local trainers per school at all face-to-face trainings and any webinar trainings to support first- and second-year implementation and platform upgrade(s);
- Assurance that local trainers will have training time with teachers at their school to implement what they have been trained on in their sessions; and
- Attendance by principals at any scheduled instructional leader full-day trainings and/or webinars as scheduled throughout the year.

Provided Resources

LEPs will receive the following items upon application approval:

1. A welcome email from Amplify with step-by-step enrollment instructions to continue or get started;
2. Amplify DIBELS 8th Edition licenses and/or mCLASS Lectura licenses; and
3. **One kit per grade level, K-3,** per new school of DIBELS 8th Edition assessment materials and/or **one kit per grade level, K-3**, per new school of mCLASS Lectura assessment materials.

Evaluation and Reporting

By receiving software licenses, LEPs agree to share all data collected using the provided software. These data will be shared with Amplify and CDE.

- Data include:
  - Student identifier information: name, grade, date of birth, state, school, school district, classroom association(s), student email, 10-digit State Assigned Student ID (SASID), gender, ethnicity, English language status, and eligibility for special education services and section 504;
  - Staff identifier information: name and staff email address; and
  - Student outcomes: records and/or scores for the assessments listed as part of the assessment.

Districts will still be required to submit READ Act data through the Data Pipeline. The data collected through the ELAT Project are solely used by Amplify and CDE for the scope of the successful implementation of the project. This includes evaluating implementation fidelity and achievement and growth results and directing professional development support.

See the **Project Assurances and Authorization for Release of Personally Identifiable Information** for additional information.

Data Privacy

CDE takes seriously its obligation to protect the privacy of student Personally Identifiable Information (PII) collected, used, shared, and stored. Amplify will collect data as described in the Evaluation and Reporting section. Any program evaluation data provided to CDE from Amplify will be in the aggregate and will be used, shared, and stored in compliance with CDE's privacy and security policies and procedures.

Application Information Webinar

An application information webinar will be held on **Thursday, February 20th, 2025, at 10 am.** Register for this webinar here.

Review Process and Timeline

CDE staff will review applications to ensure they contain all the required components.

As stated above, if the number of applicants exceeds the number of available licenses, prioritization will occur pursuant to C.R.S. 22-2-14. Preference will be given to year 12 participants (2024-2025); then to new LEPs with the highest percentages of kindergarten and first-, second-, and third-grade students who are below grade level expectations in reading; and to LEPs with the highest percentages of schools that are eligible to receive money under Title I of the federal "Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965," 20 U.S.C. sec 6301 et seq.

Submission Process and Deadline

The application is available online through the 2025-2026 ELAT Application form. Applicants must complete the online application by the deadline below.

Applications Due: Wednesday, April 16, 2025

Late or incomplete applications may not be accepted based on the number of applications submitted by the due date. Application materials are available for download on the ELAT Application Process webpage.

Once submitted, CDE staff will review applications to ensure they are complete. An email notification confirming receipt will be sent out to the program contact named in the application no later than one week after the application is received. If you do not receive confirmation within seven days, please email ELAT.

Project Assurances and Release of Information

Applicants must obtain signature approval from the appropriate representatives on both the Project Assurances and Authorization for Release of Information for the selected vendor. **These forms do not need to be submitted to CDE**; however, they must be kept on file by the applicant through December 31, 2027, and available for verification by CDE program staff for any monitoring purposes.

Application Resources and Guidelines

2024-2025 List of Colorado School Codes (XLSX)

READ Act and English Learners: Guidance for Assessment and Determination of a Significant Reading Deficiency in Grades K-3: Assessment guidance and consideration for multilingual students to inform requests of DIBELS 8th Edition and/or mCLASS Lectura licenses.

READ Act Guidance and READ Plan Resources for English Learners (ELs)

Application guidelines for multiple schools applying in a single application:
- Licenses and data of all schools submitted in a district, CSI, or BOCES application will be under the district, CSI, or BOCES umbrella license.
- Charter schools who manage enrollment separate from their authorizer will need to apply to ELAT individually and *not* be included in the district or CSI application. With Amplify's support, charter schools can be linked to their district authorizer's mCLASS account for districts requesting access to charter school's data.

IMPORTANT: Signature guidelines for applicants applying as an individual school:
- The named LEP will be the school's authorizer, either the local district, CSI, or BOCES.
- The named authorized representative in the LEP section of the application should be a representative from the district/CSI/BOCES and not a school-level representative.
- The appropriate authorized representatives from the LEP, not the school, should provide the signatures for both the Project Assurances and Amplify Authorization for Release of Information, though these can be kept on file at the school level.

Early Literacy Assessment Tool (ELAT)
Applications Due: Wednesday, April 16, 2025

Applicant type:	☐ Renewal applicant (participated in 2024-2025 ELAT Project) ☐ New applicant (did not participate in 2024-2025 ELAT Project)		
Type of Education Provider	☐ District, on behalf of multiple schools and/or charter schools ☐ BOCES, on behalf of multiple schools ☐ School ☐ District Authorized Charter School ☐ CSI Authorized Charter School		

LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER (LEP) INFORMATION – DISTRICT/CSI/BOCES

2024-25 List of Colorado School Codes

LEP name:		Official code:	
LEP region: Look up region			
Total number of schools represented by this application:			

District Assessment: Indicate the district reading interim assessment(s) used for the 2024-2025 school year.

☐ Acadience Reading   ☐ DIBELS 8th Edition   ☐ mCLASS Lectura   ☐ i-Ready   ☐ Istation   ☐ ISIP Lectura
☐ Star Early Learning English   ☐ Star Early Learning Spanish

PROJECT CONTACT INFORMATION

Authorized representative:	This is a district/CSI/BOCES person who approves the project and may serve as a secondary contact.
Name, Title:	
Phone number:	Email address:
Primary ELAT contact:	This person will be the primary contact for the project and will receive emails and updates. The primary contact will be responsible for communicating ELAT requirements and updates with the schools listed in the application.
Name, Title:	
Phone number:	Email address:
Tech contact:	This person is responsible for program deployment. Deployment includes authorizing access through the firewall, installation, confirming technology and network capability, and troubleshooting technical issues that arise during deployment. This person is usually the network engineer or another person in the district technology office.
Name, Title:	
Phone number:	Email address:
Data and Enrollment Contact:	This person is responsible for uploading student enrollment and teacher rosters. If this is the same as your tech contact, please duplicate their contact information.
Name, Title:	
Phone number:	Email address:

SCHOOL INFORMATION (duplicate for additional schools)

2024-25 List of Colorado School Codes

School name:		School code:	
Name of principal or designee:			
Phone number:	Email address:		
Principal/designee is aware of the conditions of accepting the ELAT Project, as stated in the signed ELAT Project Assurances and Amplify Authorization for Release of Personally Identifiable Information.	☐ Yes ☐ No		
Type(s) of device(s) to be used for administering the assessment (iPad, iTouch, laptop, etc.):			
How many K-3rd mCLASS Lectura licenses will this school request? Guidance.			
Will this school be using mCLASS Lectura for the first time?			

AMPLIFY ASSURANCES AND RELEASE OF INFORMATION

Note: Please keep on file at school or district through 12/31/27. Do not return to the Colorado Department of Education (CDE).

2025-2026 Early Literacy Assessment Tool (ELAT) Project Assurances

The School Board President and Board-Appointed Authorized Representative must sign below to indicate approval of the contents of the application and the receipt of program funds.

On _____(date)_____ the Board of _____(District/CSI/BOCES)_____ hereby applies for and, if awarded, accepts the goods requested in this application. In consideration of the receipt of these goods, the Board agrees that the General Assurances form for all the terms therein are specifically incorporated by reference in this application. The Board also certifies that all program and pertinent administrative requirements will be met. In addition, the Board certifies that the district is in compliance with the requirements of the federal Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), all applicable laws and regulations, and that no policy of the local educational provider prevents or otherwise denies participation in constitutionally protected prayer in public schools. In addition, school districts accept the conditions of the **Early Literacy Assessment Tool Project** and agree to the following assurances:

1. The applicant will provide CDE access to all data collected with the software. These data will be shared with Amplify and CDE. Transfers of student data are protected under CDE's current contract with Amplify, available here.
2. Involved school(s) will not discriminate against anyone on the basis of race, gender, national origin, color, disability, sexual orientation, age, or any other protected class in Colorado.
3. Maintain and continually update a list of all participating ELAT schools and school principals.

Implementation commitments at the school level include the following:
1. Obtain and utilize supported devices to assess kindergarten, first, second, and third graders through mCLASS DIBELS 8th Edition and/or mCLASS Lectura.
   Note: hardware purchase is the district's responsibility.
2. Attend required onboarding webinars for ELAT contacts.
3. Collect and securely submit student identifier information and staff identifier information outlined in the RFA to Amplify.
4. Assess all kindergarten, first, second, and third grade students using mCLASS DIBELS 8th Edition and/or mCLASS Lectura at the three designated benchmark periods.
5. Progress monitor students. Students scoring Well Below Benchmark must be progress monitored every 7-10 instructional days and, students scoring Below Benchmark must be progress monitored every 10-12 instructional days.
6. Ensure teachers or designated local trainers attend all required face-to-face trainings and webinar trainings.
7. Ensure local trainers have training time with teachers at their school(s) to implement what they have been trained on in their sessions.
8. Ensure school and instructional leaders attend face-to-face full-day trainings and/or webinar trainings as scheduled throughout the year.
9. Share all data from the district collected using the provided tool with CDE. Data collected are not used beyond the scope of the ELAT Project. All data are shared solely between CDE and Amplify for the purpose of monitoring fidelity of implementation and achievement/growth results of the participating LEPs.

Note: Districts are still required to submit READ Act data through the Data Pipeline.

Name of School Board/BOCES/Charter School Board President or Director	Signature of School Board/BOCES/Charter School Board President or Director	Date

Name of District Superintendent/CSI Director	Signature of District Superintendent/CSI Director	Date

Amplify

AUTHORIZATION FOR RELEASE OF PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION
to the Colorado Department of Education

Note: Please keep on file at school or district through 12/31/27. Do not return to the Colorado Department of Education (CDE).

Local Education Provider (i.e., district) ("LEP)": _____
Products/Applications ("Solution(s)"): mCLASS® DIBELS 8th Edition and mCLASS® Lectura
School Year ("Year"): 2025-2026   **State Program(s):** Early Literacy Assessment Tool Project

Background:
In connection with the Program listed above, Amplify Education, Inc. ("Amplify"), has been engaged to provide products and services listed above to certain local educational providers within the state (i.e., districts; each, an "LEP"). For the purpose of providing such products and services, Amplify collects and uses student data listed below in accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 and 34 C.F.R. § 99.31(a)(1)(i)(B) and applicable Colorado law.

Data:
Using Amplify's products listed above, LEP-authorized personnel may input current and historical information (collectively, "LEP Information") into, and access LEP Information from, Amplify's systems. The LEP Information will consist of the following fields:

- Student identifier information: name, grade, date of birth, state, school, school district, classroom association(s), student email, 10-digit State Assigned Student ID (SASID), gender, ethnicity, English language status, and eligibility for special education services and section 504;
- Staff identifier information: name and staff email address; and
- Student outcomes: records and/or scores for the assessments listed as part of the assessment.

Amplify's agreements with CDE that include privacy and security requirements applicable to this contract are available here: www.cde.state.co.us/dataprivacyandsecurity/agreements.

Evaluation:
CDE desires to collect and analyze certain LEP Information in connection with its audit and evaluation of the Program in order to monitor fidelity of implementation and achievement/growth results of the participating LEP's and to direct professional development support. To facilitate LEP's efforts, LEP desires that Amplify provide CDE access to LEP Information in Amplify's systems relating to the program.

Authorization:
LEP hereby requests and authorizes Amplify to provide CDE access to current and historical LEP Information as described above. These data will be transmitted securely and in full accordance with the terms of the June 26, 2018, agreement between CDE and Amplify. LEP acknowledges and agrees that this Authorization covers all participating LEP schools and programs, and that no additional approvals or releases are required from those schools. In addition, LEP understands and acknowledges that Amplify will not have control over LEP Information following its disclosure to CDE. Amplify does not own CDE's or the LEP's data at any time. This Authorization is effective with respect to LEP Information during the year, or as otherwise extended or terminated by LEP.

The undersigned has the right, power, and authority, in compliance with LEP policies, to execute and deliver this Authorization on behalf of LEP and the covered schools.

Authorized LEP Signatory
Name: _____   **Title:** _____

Signature: _____   **Date:** _____