

## 2023-2025 Extended Learning and Integrated Student Supports (ELISS) Competitive Grant Program

### Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What are the required tiers of support and minimum dosage requirements for year 1 and year 2?

- For Year 1 (July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024) supplemental (Tier II) and/or intensive (Tier III) services must be offered to targeted students for **at least 30 minutes per week per student for at least 5 weeks**.
- Year 1 services do not have to be implemented consecutively for 5 weeks and can be offered during the school day, afterschool hours and/or during the summer.
- For Year 2 (July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025), Supplemental (Tier II) and/or intensive (Tier III) supports must be offered to targeted students for **at least 30 minutes per week per student for at least 30 weeks during school-day hours throughout the academic year**.

What is the implementation timeline an ELISS program must operate?

Spring 2024	June 30, 2024	July 1, 2024	Day Prior to Start of 2024-2025 Academic Year	Start of 2024-2025 Academic Year	Last Day of 2024-2025 Academic Year	First Day of Summer 2025 until June 30, 2025
Year 1 ELISS Program (minimum 5-weeks)		ELISS Summer Year 2		ELISS Year 2 Academic Year Program		ELISS Summer Year 2

Are applicants required to detail how their proposed ELISS program must align with evidence-based practices?

- Yes. RFP Page 9: ELISS Year 2: All applicants must demonstrate how their proposed required and optional implementation model(s) align with evidence-based best practices for integrated student support services. Additionally, applicants must address how their proposed ELISS program components will focus on social-emotional supports and academic skill-building in order to reduce unexcused absences and chronic absenteeism in the upcoming academic year.

Is there a family engagement requirement?

- Yes. RFP Page 9: Family Engagement Requirements: All applicants must propose to host at least two (2) educational workshops over the course of the 2-year grant cycle.
- One workshop must focus on deepening participating families' understanding of the connection between consistent school-day attendance and future student success. The other workshop(s) must focus on offering families training on age-appropriate strategies and resources for supporting students' positive academic behaviors and/or social-emotional well-being.

What are the competitive priority considerations for the ELISS grant?

- **Competitive Priorities:** Title I, Part A Matching Funds, Serving students from an alternative learning program and/or school, extended learning Year 2 program component (Afterschool and Summer Learning). Descriptions of each competitive area can be found on pages 10-11 of the RFP.

What is the maximum ELISS grant award?

- RFP Page 12: Funding Availability: Grant participants are eligible to receive funds for up to two years (2023-2025) in the amount of up to five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) each year.

How do ELISS applicants determine funding eligibility?

- RFP Page 12: Funding Availability: NCDPI utilized the [Student Success Planning Cost Estimate Tool from the Harvard Graduate School of Education](#) to develop the funding ranges below. The funding ranges are based on the number of students served, the duration of the program, and potential staffing costs:

***Funding Level I: Proposing to serve 25-49 students: \$50,000 - \$200,000***

***Funding Level II: Proposing to serve 50-75 students: up to \$250,000***

***Funding Level III: Proposing to serve 76-150 students: up to \$350,000***

***Funding Level IV: Proposing to serve 151+ students: up to \$500,000***

These funding levels encompass the required Tier II/III supports as well as the optional core (Tier I) and EL supports.

What are matching funds?

- RFP Page 12: Budget and Match Requirements: ELISS program shall be matched on the basis of three dollars (\$3.00) in grants funds for every one dollar (\$1.00) in non-grant funds.
- Matching funds ***must not include other State funds.***
- Matching funds ***may include in-kind contributions up to fifty percent (50%) of the required match.***
- Federal funds ***used to supplement the ELISS program may also be counted toward the match requirements.***

Can funds be used to implement new or existing programming?

- RFP Page 4: Eligible Organizations: ELISS grant award funds can be used to award funds for new or existing eligible programs for at-risk students operated by nonprofit corporations and nonprofit corporations working in collaboration with local administrative units.
- Awarded applicants may have the opportunity to back date expenses to July 1, 2023 so long as the type of programming meets the ELISS requirements and prior approval is received from NCDPI.

If feeder school(s) are not on the low-performing list, how does that impact scoring?

- RFP Page 10: Priority Awards for ***Absolute Priority: Priority consideration shall be given to applications demonstrating models that focus services and programs in schools*** that are identified as low-performing pursuant to G.S. 115C-105.37.
- You can serve schools that are not considered low-performing, however, the majority (51%) must be designated low performing.
- To view the Low Performing List: [Accountability Data Sets and Reports](#) (click 2022-23 Reports, click the hyperlink for 2022-23 Low-Performing State Designations, download the report)

What is the difference between alternative program verses an alternative school?

- Alternative programs do not have their own school number and are often housed in a traditional school setting.
- Alternative schools have a local educational agency number assigned.

How can the minimum dosage requirements be met in an alternative setting if students are assigned temporarily and leave the program to return to their home school?

- Students must continue to be served at their home school at least until the minimum dosage requirement is met. It is the responsibility of the grant recipient to maintain appropriate attendance documentation to ensure the minimum dosage requirements are met.

What is a Local Administrative Unit?

- According to G.S. 115C-5, "Local school administrative unit" ***means a subdivision of the public school system governed by a local board of education.*** It may be a city school administrative unit, a county school administrative unit, or a city-county school administrative unit.
- Charter schools are considered a part of Local Administrative Units and can be a feeder school for this ELISS 2023-2025 grant.
- For the purposes of this ELISS 2023-2025 grant, private schools cannot be a site as they are not a Local Administrative Unit.

How can I determine if a feeder school is designated as Low Performing?

- To view the Low Performing List: [Accountability Data Sets and Reports](#) (click 2022-23 Reports, click the hyperlink for 2022-23 Low-Performing State Designations, download the report)
- If the school is not found on the list above, then the school is not designated as Low Performing by the state.

Does the Integrated Student Supports have to be conducted in schools or can applicants work with suspended students at their program sites?

- Integrated student support may be offered at the school or at the applicant's program site.
- This should only be a temporary situation in which a suspended student is served off site. Once the suspension ends, services should be resumed at the student's base school for their required minimum dosing.
- When a student is suspended, the applicant should have a memorandum of understanding with the school for services for students and their PowerSchool details listed in an official alternative learning program.

If the alternative school or program is not found on the ALPS list, will a priority point still be awarded?

- If the program is not on the current ALPS list, please contact Susan Brigman at [susan.brigman@dpi.nc.us](mailto:susan.brigman@dpi.nc.us) for further guidance.

Can applicants propose to provide ISS services at some feeder schools, and only provide EL services at other feeder schools?

- Yes, applicants can propose to provide different services at each feeder school as long as 51% or more of an applicant's funding is budgeted for ISS services.

Where can the ELISS webinars and RFP be found?

- [Extended Learning and Integrated Student Supports \(ELISS\) Competitive Grant Program | NC DPI](#)
- <https://www.dpi.nc.gov/documents/21cclc/grantees/rfp-final/download?attachment>