



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Funding Opportunity

Applications reviewed on a first-come, first-served basis.

Application Information Webinar: TBD,
Applications Open: Fall/Winter 2025

9th Grade On Track Grant

Pursuant to S.B. 1744

Program Questions:

TitleIV-A@azed.gov

Grants Management Questions:

(602) 542-3901 | <https://helpdesk.azed.gov>

Table of Contents

Introduction	3
Eligible Applicants	3
Available Funds and Duration of Grant	3
Allowable Use of Funds.....	4
Evaluation and Reporting	5
Data Privacy.....	5
Review Process and Notification	6
Submission Process and Deadline.....	6

Note: The following version of the application is intended as a reference document for instructions and grant application planning purposes.

Applications for the 9th Grade On Track Grant must be submitted through Grants Management in ADE Connect.

9th Grade on Track Grant

Applications Reviewed on a First-Come, First-Served Basis

Introduction

The 9th Grade On Track Grant is designed to provide funding to local education agencies and charter schools to improve the 9th grade student experience to ensure that students enrolled in 9th grade develop the skills they need to successfully proceed to the 10th grade on time and ultimately graduate from high school and launch successful careers. Applicants commit to implementing the key components of the 9th Grade Success model and should use funds to support implementation in four broad categories:

- **Highly Effective 9th Grade Success Teams**
- **Proactive & Data Driven Interventions Based on Timely, Actionable Data**
- **High Quality Instruction**
- **Comprehensive System of 9th Grade Transition Supports**

Title IV-A in School Support and Improvement will provide focus, coordination, research, and leadership to assist local education agencies in implementing efforts to reduce the dropout rate, increase graduation and completion rates related to the goals of the 9th Grade On Track Grant Program.

Eligible Applicants

Local Education Agencies (LEAs) are eligible to apply for this opportunity and will identify the school(s) that will participate. Available grant funding will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis to each eligible school district or charter school.

Eligibility:

1. Districts with an in-person 9th grade class with a graduation rate of less than 85% in each of the past two school years. (AOI students are excluded from the 9th Grade On Track grant.)
2. District applications include a partnership with an organization that has at least five years of experience providing 9th grade on-track programs and services to school districts and charter schools to increase grade nine on-track rates.

Governing Body Approval: Each grant application has an uploaded “[Intent to Apply](#)” approved by a majority vote of the school district governing board or charter school governing body.

Available Funds and Duration of Grant

Approximately \$3.4 million is available for the 2025-2030 school years. Note that future funding levels are not guaranteed. The current statute indicates that the grant will expire June 30, 2030.

Grants will be awarded for a five-year term starting in the 2025-2026 school year. Grantees should also indicate how they would use funding to implement through the 2029-2030 school year.

Grants will focus on school and district training, coaching, and capacity building to support the implementation of 9th Grade On Track components.

- Approximately \$3,400,000 is available.
- Grants will be awarded on a district level and include the current enrollment of 9th grade students and projected enrollment over the next 4 years in the amount of \$150/student enrolled or projected to be enrolled.
- The grant is capped at a total of 22,650 students. Applications are capped at 3,500 students per LEA.
- Carryover is available for this grant within the performance period.
- This is not a reverting state grant. Funds are expected to be expended by June 30, 2030.

Allowable Use of Funds

LEAs that receive a grant under the program commit to implementing the 9th Grade On Track program components and must use the monies to establish and expand programs, opportunities, and strategies that help grade nine students complete sufficient credits to be on track to graduate in four years.

Role of the Partnership Organization:

The experienced partnership organization will support and mentor the LEA in the process of improving the 9th Grade On Track success. These components fall under four general categories and are listed below:

9th Grade Success Team

- Create highly effective grade nine success teams;
- Establish systems and processes to optimize operations of the grade nine success team, including regular and consistent meetings to identify and implement strategies to improve outcomes for 9th grade students who are at risk of academic failure and to address systems-level barriers to success for all 9th grade students;
- Systemize grade nine success by recruiting and engaging all stakeholders, which include:
 - at least one member of school leadership,
 - at least one school counselor, school mental health professional, or school social worker,
 - all 9th grade teachers, including elective teachers
- Establish foundational structures and conditions for grade nine on track work;
- Allocate time for grade nine teachers and support staff to meet during the school day to review data and develop intervention strategies for grade nine students.

Data System

- Create and execute proactive and data-driven intervention and referral systems and processes, reviewing at a minimum, 9th grade students' behavior, attendance, and grades across demographic categories and student groups.
- Implement a data system that provides real-time access to integrated data concerning a student's behavior, attendance, and grades, and provides the ability to compare the data across demographic categories and student groups to grade nine teachers and support staff;
- Provide timely, actionable data for grade nine teachers, including providing access to data and developing teachers' data literacy;
- Identify and prioritize services for 9th grade students who are at risk of academic failure in 9th grade.

Instructional Supports

- Create a personalized and supportive environment for grade nine students;
- Develop learning-centered professional communities and student-centered learning communities;
- Implement proactive, high-leverage data-informed intervention strategies and provide proactive support, which may include including attendance support, content-specific academic interventions, tutoring, course-completion programs, affective support, and trauma-informed instruction;
- Implement high quality instructional strategies and fair grading practices.

9th Grade Transition

- Create and execute a comprehensive system of grade nine transition supports. Ensure that the 9th Grade Success Team receives timely and actionable data concerning the incoming 9th grade students before the start of the school year and receives professional development concerning how to use the data to inform instruction for the students. To the extent possible, the LEA shall ensure that middle school teachers provide information to 9th grade teachers concerning the incoming 9th grade students;

- Provide early preparation for high school entry. Provide expanded learning opportunities such as summer orientation for incoming 9th grade students and their parents to introduce students to the behavioral and academic expectations of high school.

Examples of Allowable Expenses:

- A grant program coordinator or 9th grade success leader who leads and organizes the work of the grant and supports 9th grade staff and students.
- Intervention curriculum, training, or coaching for 9th grade instructional staff.
- Time for staff to plan and meet to review student data, plan interventions, and instructional support.
- Professional development, conferences, or training for 9th grade staff that supports implementation of 9th grade success components.

Examples of Unallowable expenses:

- Capital equipment or capital improvements such as upgrades or improvements to buildings, utilities, or IT infrastructure, or construction.
- Maintenance.
- Gift cards, gift certificates, cash awards, gas for students' personal vehicles, personal gifts, door prizes, etc.

Evaluation and Reporting

Each LEA awarded a grant is required to provide information to ADE concerning the implementation of the 9th Grade On Track Grant and the evaluation of impact. Applicants must have, or acquire, the capacity to complete the evaluation and reports.

The LEA deems a student is on track to graduate in four years if the student:

- Completes at least 25% of the credits required for the student to graduate from high school by the end of 9th grade; and
- Does not earn more than one F letter grade, or the equivalent, in grade nine.

All applicants receiving grant funding are required to submit to ADE annually:

- Fiscal reports during full year implementation and an annual completion report (CR).
- At least one performance report (e.g., numbers of students served, student outcomes such as on-track rate and course passage rate, progress on performance measures, implementation progress, etc.) via EMAC.

Applicants receiving grant funded are required to provide any information necessary to demonstrate compliance with Grant Program requirements upon request by ADE.

Requires each school district and charter school that receives Grant Program monies to supplement and not supplant programs, opportunities and strategies that help grade nine students complete sufficient credits to be on track to graduate in four years.

Data Privacy

ADE takes seriously its obligation to protect the privacy of students' and educators' Personally Identifiable Information (PII) collected, used, shared, and stored.

Documents submitted as part of the application must not contain any personally identifiable student or educator information including names, identification numbers, or anything that could identify an individual. All data should be referenced/included in the aggregate, and the aggregate counts should be redacted to remove small numbers under n=16 for students or n=5 for educators.

The information reported to ADE in relation to grant activities is not confidential and is subject to public requests. Awarded grantees should ensure reported information does not contain Personally Identifiable Information (PII) or confidential information.

Review Process and Notification

Applications will be reviewed by ADE staff to ensure they contain all the required components.

Note: This is a competitive process – applicants must meet eligibility requirements and submit a completed application. There is no guarantee that applying will result in funding or funding at the requested level. All award decisions are final. Applicants that do not meet the qualifications may reapply for future grant opportunities.

Submission Process and Deadline

Completed applications (including all required elements outlined below) must be submitted in GME. Dates for grant opening, deadlines, and notifications are To Be Determined. Grants will be approved on a first-come, first-served basis.

Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Application materials and budget are available for download on ADE's [9th Grade On Track website](#).