

## Did You Know?

### 2022 April Families and Reading Month

**SNEEK  
PEEK**

*"Children develop a love of stories and poems when they read or are read to on a regular basis. These experiences enrich and expand their world and encourage imagination."*

KSLA has proclaimed April as Families and Reading Month. Check the April eBLAST for links to materials provided by KSLA. You can visit [Keystone State Literacy Association - Families and Reading \(wildapricot.org\)](http://Keystone State Literacy Association - Families and Reading (wildapricot.org)) to see the 2021 materials. New materials for 2022 will be posted this month!

## Research

### How Much Phonics Should I Teach?

"The National Reading Panel concluded that students benefited from explicit phonics instruction. It didn't determine how much phonics might be beneficial (it did say that phonics from kindergarten through second grade was a good idea).

I took another look at 38 studies. Eighteen of them gave information about dosage. They all were successful. That is, the kids who got those amounts of phonics outperformed the ones who weren't getting that instruction. These daily amounts ranged from 15 to 60 minutes per day.

Does that mean every child needs 30 minutes of explicit phonics teaching every day? Not necessarily. Carol Connor found she could divide first-graders based on their decoding proficiency. Those who could decode well already, did better working on more advanced reading and writing activities. Those not so proficient did best with explicit phonics teaching. Her study gives lie to the notion that there is no cost to teaching phonics to kids who can already decode well. What that means is that some kids would get more phonics, and some would get less. Also, even with 30 minutes of decoding instruction each day there are sure to be kids who need even more. Those kids might receive in-class or pull-out interventions added to the daily classroom phonics instruction.

Thirty minutes per day on that kind of learning in Grades K through 2 is a wise investment. There is no question that COVID shutdowns, etc. have thrown the learning calendar off in many communities. Kids who would have sufficiently mastered decoding by the end of Grade 2 in the past, very well might need to continue working on that beyond the normal ending point. Schools that have been monitoring kids' progress regularly should see that and adjust their instruction accordingly. Those schools that haven't been monitoring learning closely should start that now as part of an effort to intensify their efforts to reverse the COVID losses. Finally, many districts have monitored kids' learning in grades K-2 and they might want to push that into early Grade 3 as well until things get straightened out." *Timothy Shanahan*

[Foundational Skills to Support Reading for Understanding in Kindergarten Through 3rd Grade - YouTube](#)  
[Foundational Skills to Support Reading for Understanding in Kindergarten Through 3rd Grade \(ed.gov\)](#)

Click on link  
to read  
the entire  
response.

## Grant Opportunity

### Available VDPP Funds through PCCD

The Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) announces the availability of \$2,500,000 of state Violence and Delinquency Prevention Programs (VDPP) Funds.

Funding is available for nonprofit organizations, school districts, and other school entities to propose programming and other services to address youth mental health needs that have become apparent during the COVID-19 pandemic. PCCD is seeking innovative ways to assist our youth with difficulties they may have experienced as a result of the pandemic.

See the attached announcement and application information.

Applications are due in PCCD's Egrants System by Monday, March 28, 2022.

Bureau of Curriculum, Assessment, and Instruction  
Division of Instructional Quality  
Pennsylvania Department of Education



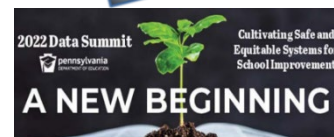
**Office of Justice Programs**

Support for Student Mental Health Needs

Fiscal Year 2022/2023 Solicitation

**Vol 6 ISSUE 3  
March 2022**

Welcome  
March!



**2022 DATA**

**SUMMIT**

March 21-23, 2022  
Register Now!

[PDE Data Summit \(pa.gov\)](http://PDE Data Summit (pa.gov))

**PDE Act 158**

**Office Hours**

**Winter 2022**

**3PM to 4 PM**

**March 2: Industry Credentials**

[ZOOM link](#)

**March 9: Special Education**

[ZOOM link](#)

**March 30: Technical Assistance Session for Tracking Tool**

[ZOOM link](#)

## Additional Trainings:

**March 16<sup>th</sup>: Tracking Tool**

**Webinar –9-10:30am**

[ZOOM link](#)

The **2022 Data Summit (March 21-23, 2022)** will also offer multiple sessions on Act 158 topics.

Any questions related to Act 158, the trainings, or resources may be directed to [ra-edgradrequirement@pa.gov](mailto:ra-edgradrequirement@pa.gov)

Email questions to:

[dsimaska@pa.gov](mailto:dsimaska@pa.gov)

[rbaumleama@pa.gov](mailto:rbaumleama@pa.gov)




COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION ON CRIME AND DELINQUENCY

Date: February 24, 2022

Subject: Support for Student Mental Health Needs

To: All Eligible Non-Profit Organizations, School Districts, and Other School Entities

From: Michael Pennington  
Executive Director



The Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) announces the availability of \$2,500,000 of state Violence and Delinquency Prevention Programs (VDPP) Funds.

Funding is available for nonprofit organizations, school districts, and other school entities to propose programming and other services to address youth mental health needs that have become apparent during the COVID-19 pandemic. A listing of possible approaches is included in the funding announcement, but PCCD is seeking innovative ways to assist our youth with difficulties they may have experienced as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Available funds are awarded through the Office of Justice Programs (OJP), Unit of Violence Prevention Initiatives, and will support the implementation of programs, best practices, policy improvements, and other approaches that will provide youth with improved supports for their mental health well-being.

Applications are due in PCCD's Egrants System by Monday, March 28, 2022. These 24-month awards will be presented at the June 8, 2022 Commission meeting, and approved projects will begin on July 1, 2022. Please note that awards will be made to successful applicants contingent on the availability of VDPP funds in each fiscal year. For full application requirements, applicants are encouraged to read the narrative funding announcement and use it as a guide to complete their applications in the Egrants System.

We look forward to receiving applications under this funding opportunity, and the possibility to work with you in providing services for Pennsylvania's youth.



## Office of Justice Programs

### Support for Student Mental Health Needs

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#### Fiscal Year 2022/2023 Solicitation

**Please Note:** Applications are only accepted through PCCD's Egrants system. Applicants must register in Egrants prior to submitting an application. Applicants are strongly encouraged to familiarize themselves with the Egrants system and allow adequate time to prepare and submit an application.

**Recommended [Egrants Agency Registration](#) Date:**  
March 1, 2022

**Recommended [Egrants User Registration](#) Date:**  
March 8, 2022

**Mandatory SAM Registration Deadline:**  
March 15, 2022

**Mandatory Egrants Application Deadline:**  
March 28, 2022

This funding guideline contains information not appearing in the Egrants application. Applicants are advised to print and review this document and refer to it while completing your Egrants application.

PCCD Program staff may only respond to questions to clarify the funding announcement. Questions must be sent via email to: [RA-PCCD-OJJDP@pa.gov](mailto:RA-PCCD-OJJDP@pa.gov) with "[Support for Student Mental Health Needs](#)" in the subject line. All questions regarding this funding announcement must be received by close of business on **March 24, 2022**. PCCD staff will post responses to questions, as they are received, on [PCCD's website](#). Select the appropriate funding announcement to view questions and answers.

For any technical or system questions, contact and ask for the Egrants Help Desk at (717) 787-5887 or (800) 692-7292, or by emailing [RA-eGrantsSupport@pa.gov](mailto:RA-eGrantsSupport@pa.gov).