



For Immediate Release

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EMPOWERING PARENTS GRANT APPLICATION PORTAL OPENS NOVEMBER 16 FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR FAMILIES & STUDENTS

The Idaho State Board of Education today announced that Idaho parents will be able to apply for Empowering Parents grants beginning on ***Thursday, November 16, 2023, starting at 8:00 a.m. Mountain Time.***

This marks the beginning of the second year of the Empowering Parents program created in 2022 by Governor Brad Little and the Legislature to assist Idaho families in addressing learning loss. Since launch, Empowering Parents has helped over 45,000 families all while also supporting local businesses and the local economy.

Eligible parents or guardians can use the grant funds to purchase education-related services and resources on the Empowering Parent online marketplace such as tutoring services, internet connectivity, computer hardware and software, instructional materials, and more.

Nearly \$30 million will be available this year, enough to fund just under 28,900 grants at \$1,000 per student and a maximum of \$3,000 per family. Students attending Idaho public and private schools and students who are homeschooled are

all eligible. The program applies to students in kindergarten through the 12th grade. It is a rolling application period that will remain open until all of the funding has been distributed.

“Odyssey is honored to continue supporting the Idaho Empowering Parents program and to build on the positive impact we have had,” said Joseph Conner, founder and CEO at Odyssey. “With the additional \$30 million now available for families, we are helping to ensure that every student has the resources and tools they need to succeed. We will continue to focus on providing easy and modern access to resources that enhance every student’s education journey.”

Empowering Parents grants will be prioritized and awarded first to households with an Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) at or below \$60,000 per year. Once the first phase of awards is completed, the AGI limit will be expanded to households earning up to \$75,000 per year. After the second phase is completed and if there are still grant funds available, the program will be available to all other eligible applicants on a first come, first served basis.

“We are grateful to the Governor and the Legislature for providing funding to make Empower Parents a permanent program,” said Matt Freeman, executive director of the State Board. “My staff continue their commitment to administer this program with fidelity and to ensure that eligible educational products and services are available for Idaho students.”

Families who received those grants are eligible for the second year, but they must reapply.

For more information about the program is available at:

<https://empoweringparents.idaho.gov/>

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