

From: [Rebecca Phillips](#)
To: [KDE KBE](#)
Subject: please help us with the RTA Grant
Date: Monday, November 29, 2021 10:19:40 AM
Attachments: [image.png](#)

I am truly worried about the changes to this grant. As someone who has received the RTA for the last 8 years, I have seen so much growth from the students that I have pulled, but with this school year returning back to "normal" I have seen so many students returning to school struggling to reach grade level in so many areas, especially reading! The way this grant has been changed, has put my school in a pickle, so to say, because we have the need for this intervention position, but the changes are not in the direction that my district and school will be allowed to keep my position. We have over 800 students within our school and we see a very large chunk of students in reading intervention after returning from the pandemic and I am truly worried about the upcoming years without having an extra reading interventionist to help collaborate with teacher and pull students to help them close the gap and reach the average of their peers and get them where they need to be in order to succeed. Please help find a way to keep these literacy positions where they are centered around helping students in their time of need. Thank you!



Kentucky Reading Association

A Voice for Literacy

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Kevin Presnell, President

Email: kentuckyreadingassociation@gmail.com

Kentucky Reading Association's Statement Regarding the Kentucky Department of Education's Request for Application for the Read to Achieve (RTA) Reading Diagnostic and Intervention Grant

[KENTUCKY, November 24th] – The Kentucky Reading Association (KRA) believes that as schools return from the pandemic, it is crucial for schools to have the resources necessary to assess students where they are and provide the appropriate interventions for students' needs. **There has never been a more crucial moment in history to provide intervention resources and services for our students.**

KRA believes that this new Request for Applications (RFA) alters the design of a grant that has been structured as an intervention grant in statute for the last 15 years. **KRA has listened to the concerns of our members and wishes to express that we are deeply disappointed with the Kentucky Department of Education's unilateral redirection of a grant designed to assist schools with providing intervention services.** This new design drastically undercuts the ability of schools to continue their intervention services in a time when these services are desperately needed.

As we discuss with members of the Reading Diagnostic and Intervention Steering Committee, the oversight body intended to steer the grant, they are appalled by their inability to advise the creation of the RFA. By refusing to allow the steering committee access to the RFA, KDE stripped the steering committee of its ability to complete the statutory responsibilities.

As always, as Kentucky's professional literacy association, KRA stands ready and willing to help improve this RFA for Kentucky's kids.

###

The Kentucky Reading Association is a regional affiliate of the International Literacy Association and works to be a voice for literacy in Kentucky.

1 of 1

--

Becky Phillips

Reading Recovery Teacher (RTA Teacher)

Wayland Alexander Elementary

Ohio County

