Investigating History

MASSACHUSETTS 5th-7th GRADE GRANT OPPORTUNITY

Accessible and Inclusive

Through engaging questions and meaningful, civically oriented tasks, the materials help students critically and thoughtfully understand the perspectives of those from different times and places.

Aligned to state standards & national best practices

A history and social studies curriculum that is comprehensive, culturally responsive, inclusive to all students, and aligned to Massachusetts state content and practice standards.

Evidence-based instructional practices

Investigating History embodies the rigor of inquiry-based learning, challenging both teachers and students to develop greater skills and ownership.

The Investigating History grant program through the One8 Foundation provides schools with financial resources & on-the-ground support

As a member of the grant cohort, schools are provided:

- School-specific implementation support
- Grant funding to offset professional learning (PL) for all 5-7th grade units
- Priority access to PL opportunities, virtual supports & new implementation resources from the One8 Foundation
- Additional PL resources & student programming (e.g. educator community events and opportunities to showcase student work)

To participate, schools develop a three-year implementation plan that ensures:

- Full curriculum adoption (all units) for all relevant grade levels
- Whole participation for all relevant grades - 100% of 5-7th grade students & teachers
- Robust educator PL; all teachers participate in PL throughout the three years tailored to their experience level in teaching Investigating History
- Champions lead the work at the district & school level

Applications due February 14, 2025

Visit www.one8ALHub.org/IH-Grants
for additional information and grant application

one8 FOUNDATION

QUESTIONS? Get in touch today
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Frequently Asked Questions:

1. **When are applications due?** Applications are due February 14th, 2025.

2. **How do I apply?** To apply for the program, please visit www.one8ALHub.org/IH-Grants to access the online application.

3. **Which schools are eligible to apply?** Schools are required to implement Investigating History in *all* relevant grades (i.e., 5th, 6th, and 7th grade). If your school only includes one of these grades (e.g., K-5), you are not eligible to apply unless another school in your district with additional grade levels has adopted Investigating History or is currently applying for a grant (e.g., K-5 school requires a 6-8 school has adopted or is applying). If your school includes two or three relevant grades, you are eligible to apply on your own. Competitive preference will be given to schools with a student body that includes at least 15% low-income students, as well as schools that plan to use Investigating History in all three grades (5th, 6th, and 7th).

4. **Can a grant span more than one year?** Grants are awarded over a period of three years. Our experience is that it takes three years for educators to be fully knowledgeable about, and comfortable, with a new curriculum.

5. **How are grant award sizes determined? What can grant funding be used for?** Grant funding is intended to support high-quality adoption of IH curricular resources and more specifically intended to offset the costs associated with launching the program. Schools awarded grants will receive professional learning, school-specific implementation support from the One8 team, and durable printed materials for all units. Grant award sizes are determined by school size and number of teachers taking part in professional learning.

6. **I thought the Investigating History curriculum was free and open source - what do I need a grant for?** Investigating History is an open-source curriculum, offered by DESE, that is free and available for access via an online platform. This One8 grant program is designed to support schools to go beyond just accessing curricular materials. It will support teachers and leaders as they adopt and implement the curriculum. Grants provide for educator professional learning to support new teachers in unpacking units and skills and returning teachers in building upon those skills. Teachers who piloted Investigating History report that professional learning is essential to be able to effectively lead students through the curriculum and learn the inquiry-based model. The grant will also provide on-the-ground implementation support for schools, including opportunities to develop community connections and troubleshooting for context-specific challenges.

7. **What if my teachers already attended some unit-specific PL?** The professional learning pathway in this grant opportunity is flexible to fit a variety of past Investigating History experiences. The grant team will work with you and your teachers to determine which track is the best fit for them for each unit.

8. **Can my school request additional funding for teachers to complete more professional learning, beyond what's provided through the grant?** The grant is designed to provide financial support for 5th-7th grade teachers to receive a comprehensive series of curriculum-aligned PL. The grant also provides for school context-specific implementation support. If schools would like teachers to complete additional Investigating History professional learning or train teachers beyond those listed in the grant, they will need to use local funding.

9. **What makes an application competitive?** This program seeks to partner with schools that are committed to full adoption of Investigating History to strengthen social studies education for their 5th-7th grade students and teachers. Competitive applications demonstrate knowledge of and commitment to Investigating History's instructional approach and outline a thoughtful, appropriate implementation plan that allows students to complete all units in 5th-7th grade.

10. **Can we edit our application after it has been submitted?** The portal allows you to log in and adjust at any point in the process before clicking "Submit." Please note: you will be asked to re-enter your email and create a new password each time you wish to save the form and resume later (you may use the same password you used previously).

11. **Is there a grant opportunity for educators in grades 3 and 4?** DESE's formal release of the Grades 3 and 4 Investigating History curriculum is scheduled for Summer 2026. In the 2025-2026 school year, we anticipate there will be opportunities for representatives from third and fourth grade schools to enroll in a series of One8-supported professional learning days focused on building content and pedagogical knowledge that is critical for effective implementation of Investigating History. This opportunity will not require a grant, although schools participating in the One8 grant opportunity for Grades 5-7 will receive priority access to registration.