

Questions and Answers – Summary

RFP #TA-07

2013-2014 Replication Grant for Low Performing Schools



NEW YORK STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

1. I am inquiring about opportunities to serve as a Peer Reviewer for your upcoming Replication Grant for Low Performing Schools competition. Can you please provide any relevant information regarding this process? I have served as a Peer Reviewer for several states and one federal competition.

Answer. Currently there are no recruitment plans for external peer reviewers for the Replication Grant RFP.

2. I am inquiring about the Replication Grant for Low Performing Schools. Glens Falls Middle School was identified as Improvement (year 1) - Basic during the 2011-12 school year. Glens Falls Middle School is now a school in Good Standing for 2012-13. Would we qualify for the Replication Grant for Low Performing Schools?

Answer. As stated in the RFP, eligible districts that contain a school that appears on the Differentiated Accountability list in Improvement, Corrective Action or Restructuring during the 2011-12 school year are eligible to apply.

3. Given our geographical proximity to Saratoga Springs School District and the similar initiatives we have taking place regarding RTI and the use of data to guide instructional decisions, would we still be able to partner with Saratoga Springs even though they were recognized for practices within their elementary schools, and we are looking to use the grant for our Middle School?

Answer. Districts are free to choose the best practice model they wish to replicate.

4. Is there a page limit for the narrative and other sections for the Replication Grant?

Answer. While the RFP lists no page limit for the narrative or for other sections, explicit and concise responses are recommended.

5. Are indirect costs allowed for this project?

Answer. Indirect costs are allowable, but applicants must adhere to the indirect cost rate guidelines found in the FS-10 form.

6. Can a school that is applying for the 1003G School Improvement Grant apply for the Replication Grant?

Answer. Yes. If you are applying for a School Improvement Grant, you may also apply for a Replication Grant; however, schools do not apply for the Replication Grant, eligible districts that contain at least one low performing school that appears on one or more of the lists noted in the Replication Grant RFP are eligible to apply.

7. Are the travel expenses for the Best Practice Model School to visit the Replication School paid out of the Dissemination Grant or do we have to budget those expenses into the Replication Grant?

Answer. Replication Grant applicants must only budget for activities (including travel) that will be carried out by their own staff.

8. Are non-public schools eligible for these grants?

Answer. No. Eligible applicants for Replication Grants are public school districts in New York State that contain at least one low performing school that appears on one or more of the lists noted in the Replication Grant RFP.

9. I am writing because we would like to get answers to our questions in regards to our initiative - an Enrichment Center for Children that we are planning to open in Queens, NY. Please instruct me with details - what are the requirements for the 2013-14 Replication Grant for Low Performing Schools, as well what are the

Answer. Eligible applicants are public school districts in New York State that contain at least one low performing school that appears on one or more of the lists noted in the Replication Grant RFP. Specific details of the grant are available at: <http://usny.nysed.gov/rttt/rfp/ta-07/home.html>

10. If a District has two identified low performing schools, can the District apply for two replication grants, one for each school?

Answer: Please refer to the RFP regarding the lists of eligible low performing schools. As noted in the RFP, “Districts containing 35 or more low performing schools may apply for Replication Grants for up to 9 of those schools. Districts containing between 16 and 34 low performing schools may apply for grants for up to 6 of those schools. Districts containing 15 or fewer low performing schools may apply for grants for up to 3 of those schools. **Again, separate applications must be submitted for each school.**”

11. Is there a page limit or any sort of length guidelines for the proposal narrative? (Looking at many of the questions we could give a response that is one page or several in length, and so any guidance would be helpful.)

Answer: While the RFP lists no page limit for the narrative or for other sections, explicit and concise responses are recommended.

12. Are there any formatting preferences on the proposal narrative (double-spaced, font size, etc.)?

Answer: Double-spaced responses and Times New Roman 12 point font are recommended, but not required.

13. Will you release the grant applications from the Commissioner’s Schools, to give us more detail on their dissemination plans, etc.?

Answer: As noted in the RFP, to select a Commissioner’s School best practice model, applicants should consult NYSED’s website, <http://usny.nysed.gov/rttt/rfp/ta-06/dissemination-grantees.html>. The information includes descriptions of the Commissioner’s Schools’ best practices, as well as the Schools’ dissemination plans and work plans.

14. We see the program period is divided into two segments, as far as funding. Is your assumption that the first time period (April-August 2013) is primarily for planning, while the second time period (Sept. 2013-August 2014) is for implementation?

Answer: This RFP does not direct applicants to use the first project period for planning purposes. It will be up to applicants to determine how best to structure their project plans and timelines; however, these plans must be directly tied to the dissemination plans and work plans of the Commissioner's Dissemination School they have selected. Please carefully review the dissemination plans and work plans provided through the link in the previous answer.

15. Does NYSED assume that the Commissioner's School will provide any required professional development for the Replication School? Or can the replication school use someone else (BOCES, outside vendor, etc.) to provide any required professional development?

Answer: The selected Commissioner's Dissemination Grant School will provide required Professional Development for the Replication School, as described in their work plans found at the link in question #14. Applicants may include additional activities that are not addressed in the selected school's work plan, but *all* Replication Grant activities must clearly and directly support the implementation of the chosen Commissioner's School's best practices.

16. Can a district apply for the Replication Grant for a school that they are applying for the School Improvement Grant?

Answer. Yes. If you are an eligible district and applying for a School Improvement Grant, you may also apply for a Replication Grant.

17. We did not receive a Dissemination grant and so must apply for Replication funds and work outside our school district. Will there be another application period to establish additional Dissemination sites? And will there be another round for Replication grants? This would allow us to partner and work with schools within our own district.

Answer. No additional application period or rounds are anticipated at this time.