

15-ER13-C03

Building Teacher Leadership Capacity to Support Beginning Teachers Y1/3

TA Session 4/27/15

Questions and Answers

Note: This document will be revised as additional questions are received.

Presenters: Cathy Pine and Sandy O'Neil

Q. My Institution of Higher Education (IHE) is not included in the grant eligibility list. Why not?

A. Eligible IHEs are defined in the Notice of Grant Opportunity. Most notably, to be eligible as the grant lead agency an IHE must have programs that lead to both teacher and principal certification.

Q. My school district is not included in the grant high-need district eligibility list. Why not?

A. High-need districts are defined very specifically for this grant. An explanation is provided in the NGO. If your district is not eligible to be the principal high-need LEA partner for the grant, it could be a secondary partner. Do not hesitate to express your interest in participating to several IHEs.

Q. Re: summative evaluation requirements for eligibility to serve as a mentor – How do you handle the case of teachers who are experienced but have come from another state and do not have the necessary summative evaluations under NJ's teacher evaluation system?

A. The district can make a decision about including such teachers, depending on their current evaluations in the district and past documentation of effective practice.

Q. Are IHEs allowed to partner with more than one LEA?

A. IHEs must partner with one eligible high-needs district that will become the principal LEA partner. After that partnership is established, the IHE may partner with other LEAs (high-needs or not) and organizations. The NGO contains a list of eligible high needs districts in Appendix D.

Q: Word counts – can we find out the word or character count prior to completing the application?

A: The limitation for character count for text fields is contained in the directions for the data to be entered into the text field in EWEG. The problem is that applicants try to copy and paste text with fancy formatting or characters that cannot be copied and pasted into EWEG and it won't all fit or they get an error message. In addition, some characters (such as paragraph returns) are counted in the programming code as more than one character. See the attached sheet about EWEG tips for more suggestions for entering text.

Q: Does this grant allow payment for substitutes and how are they handled?

A: Yes, the grant allows payment for substitutes, except for nonpublic school partners, who are not allowed to receive payments for substitutes. The IHE can reimburse the district for substitute costs. This can be a separate line item in the budget.

Q: Because a district is required to provide mentors and give them training, how do we structure the grant activities to be sure we are supplementing and not supplanting current regulations?

A: Certain grant requirements are not currently in mentoring regulations, e.g., the professional learning activities required for school leaders, the work on policies supporting clinical experiences for teacher candidates, training of cooperating teachers, developing data collection instruments, etc. For other elements of your application you will have to make a case based on your current situation. Anything that extends or revises what you already do could be allowed if you can give the proper rationale. You will be piloting things during the grant period to determine if you want to revise your current policies and practices. You might cite current research that you want to embed, pilot other methods for assigning mentors to different populations, pilot mentors for special needs teachers, etc.

Q: Is there is a list of High need LEAs?

A: Yes, in the NGO – Appendix D

Q: Do we need to consult with all non-public schools?

A: Yes. Every non-public school must be consulted in the district of your high-need LEA partner.

Q: Can the IHE award credits for participation in a college course as part of this program?

A: Yes. You can structure your project so that courses can be taken by grant participants. However, you cannot use this grant money to develop courses you would use in the teacher prep program. The grant funds are to be used to support teachers and leaders in your partner LEA(s).

EWEG – TIPS ON USING THE PROGRAM

1. Do not use the “Back” button. This will cause a system error.
2. It is always recommended that long narrative sections be typed in either Word or Note Pad, and copied and pasted into EWEG. Doing this, will prevent you losing the text that you worked hard to create, should something go wrong when you save the page.
3. When copying and pasting from Word or Note Pad, be sure to check for special characters. Most notably, quotation marks, the apostrophe, and hyphen are the biggest culprits. However, avoid using all of the other special characters (!@#%&*()~/<>{} and bullets). Do not try to use fancy formatting. It will only give you problems. Just be sure that the content is there in a concise and clear manner.

The EWEG system is not compatible with the way Microsoft Word formats apostrophes, quotation marks and bullets. Use the following procedure to resolve this problem. Remove the apostrophes and quotation marks in the text that you want to copy and paste. Paste the text into EWEG. Working in EWEG, **BEFORE YOU TRY TO SAVE THE PAGE**, put the apostrophes and quotation marks back in. You will notice that the apostrophes and quotation marks will now look different indicating that the problematic formatting has been removed. You should be able to save the page without getting an error message. In addition, do not use bullets in the text being pasted into EWEG.

4. When you click on a Tab to open a page, do not click on it more than once. Some of our pages take a while to open (like the Needs Data page). If you click on the tab more than once, you will get a system error.
5. **Certain systems are just not compatible with EWEG. Most notably: MAC, Hand-held devices, Notebooks (including Chromebooks, Playbooks, and Ipads), Safari, Google Chrome and Firefox. If you have these systems, please try to locate a different PC to use to enter your data.**

Also note that Internet Explorer versions higher than 7.0 should access the EWEG site in “Compatibility Mode” or you may have unexpected errors and not be able to view all application pages.

Another recommendation for the files that you upload: Please use descriptive file names for these uploads to signal their contents to future readers.