

FY15 Common Core Academy

June 24, 2014

Q. Should we budget for the Principal PLC?

A. Yes, only for travel to and from meetings in Trenton, approximately 4 meetings.

Q. Can technology requirements be budgeted into cost? Some districts do not support bandwidth.

A. Bandwidth should be covered by most, if not all districts. Most principals have at least a laptop/desktop. You can propose technology in your program plan; however it may not be approved.

Q. The idea of a virtual experience connected to in person meetings for the Principal PLC is a great idea. How will it be actualized? Who is going to plan for it?

A. The Project Managers from all awarded grants will meet at the DOE with Kimberley Harrington to design the agenda for the in-person principal PLC meetings as well as discuss the virtual discussions. It is anticipated that a free service communication site will be used for the virtual PLC conversations. The virtual site will not be used for training purposes.

Q. Can the NJDOE hold back some money for one or two statewide conferences for the principal PLCs?

A. Financially the funding goes directly to higher eds; the NJDOE cannot host this with these funds. A conference is not the intention of the Principal PLCs, the focus is to bring the principals participating in the grants together virtually and in person to collaborate through participation in a facilitated, high functioning PLC.

Q. What does DGA stand for?

A. Discretionary Grant Application.

“The DGA contains information applicable to all discretionary grant programs, provides advice to facilitate the preparation of a well-considered, complete application, and includes directions for completing the standard application forms.”

“Regardless of the level of specificity and the program specific content in the NGO, the DGA’s general guidance for constructing the program narrative and instructions for completing the program and budget forms are applicable to all grant programs.”

Q. With regards to supplementing versus supplanting, will the support be audited?

A. Support provided by the grant must be **in addition to** what the district has already planned for Common Core support and implementation.

Q. Some grant opportunities have limitations on per diem rate for consultants. Is there a limitation for this?

A. No limit has been set for this grant in relationship to per diem rates for consultants.

Q. Will the IHE need to consult with ALL non-public schools within the partnering high-needs LEAs region?

A. Yes, all the non-public schools within the partnering high-need LEAs' boundaries must be invited to participate in the grant opportunity. The IHE must provide documentation for each non-public in their partnering high-need LEAs' boundaries to show whether the non-public has accepted or declined the opportunity to participate. All participating non-publics must be considered in the Needs Assessment as well as be a voice in the planning of the Common Core Academy.

Q. In terms of the non public participation, would it be the IHEs that would make the initial contact?

A. Yes, the IHE is responsible for contacting the non-public schools.

Q. How does this benefit IHEs?

A. It's important to IHEs to be able to support and be informed by the field. They benefit a great deal from the partnership. (The group consensus shared by IHEs at the TA session.) Some IHEs create graduate level courses aligned with the CCSS. It is a way for the LEAs to have access to that form of professional development.

Q. If a non-public school is interested in participating in this opportunity how would they ask to be considered?

A. A non-public school interested in participating in this opportunity should reach out to the high-needs LEA in its region, a list of eligible high-needs LEAs is provided in the NGO.

Q. Can someone sign up to partner with multiple IHEs?

A. Yes, an LEA may partner with multiple IHEs if the cohorts of teachers/principals are different for each one. It is strongly recommended that travel and capacity be taken into consideration if pursuing multiple partnerships. It is also encouraged that the IHE consider fulfillment of the grant commitments if an LEA has numerous partners and is not able to fulfill their participation in the grant putting the IHE at risk.

Q. How are the regions defined?

A. Regions are defined by counties and a list is provided in the NGO.

Q. Do IHEs partner only with LEAs in their own region?

A. IHEs are not limited to LEAs in their own region, however travel and support to the district for success of the grant should be taken into consideration when considering partnerships.

Q. Will the evaluation of the applications be restricted to NJDOE staff or outside readers as well?

A. Outside readers will serve on the review committee as well as NJDOE staff.

Program questions should go to Alan Oleksiak, alan.oleksiak@doe.state.nj.us .

Eweg questions should be directed to the EWEG help desk, eweghelp@doe.state.nj.us.

All FAQs and the TA PPT will be posted on the web with the NGO.