

**Questions and Answers from the Technical Assistance session
Summer Blended Learning and Personalized Learning grant program**

Question 1: The grant takes place over a two-month period, from July 1-August 31st. Does the grant program have to begin in July 1st?

Answer: No. July 1st is the first day in which a district can encumber funds. Please refer to the Minimum Service Level section on page 6 of the NGO.

Question 2: Does the project director have to be an administrator?

Answer: The Project Director is not required to be an administrator. See the Project Director description, referenced in the *Instructional Staff Criteria* section on page 20 of the NGO.

Question 3: Can you supplement program with professionals from the local business community to teach some hours?

Answer: Yes, but the professional must be on the payroll of the district and meet the appropriate certification requirements for the teaching position.

Question 4 : How early in June will awards be announced, so staffing considerations can be made?

Answer: Awards will be announced to applicant by late May.

Question 5: If a school already has an LMS, can they pilot a different LMS as part of this program?

Answer: Awardees may pilot a Learning Management System (LMS) if it is different from the current LMS system being utilized by the school district. This system should not take the place of an existing LMS system. Please see the *Supplement not Supplant* section on page 28 of the NGO.

Question 6: Can the grant used to train teachers?

Answer: Yes. Grant funds may be used for professional development and training in support of grant-funded projects and services.

Question 7: Can the grant be used to develop a platform for digital badging?

Answer: For the use of digital badging during the grant program, please refer to the *Program Characteristics* section on pages 4-5 of the NGO.

Question 8: Do the same students need to be committed to full 4 weeks of the summer program?

Answer: Yes. It is expected that the same students will complete the full 4 week program. The minimum service level needs to be met throughout the grant program. For more information see the *Minimum Service Level* section on page 6 of the NGO.

Question 9: Is it possible to have a 4 day extended hour summer grant program?

Answer: Grant programs need be to operate at least 5 days a week. Students should complete at least 20 hours a week. Hours may vary within the 5 days and students may fulfill these hours, within different blended and personalized learning models, on or off campus. See the *Summer Programming* sections on pages 15 -16 of the NGO.

Question 10: Is the grant for current (SY 2015-2016) 3rd grade students or students going into 3rd grade (SY 2016-2017)?

Answer: Students who complete grade 3 in the 2015-2016 school year are eligible to participate in the grant program.

Question 11: Are incentives for students to strive for perfect attendance an allowable expense? For example: all students with perfect attendance receive a bike....

Answer: Student incentives are ineligible costs under Title I-funded grants. Grant funds may not be used for this purpose.

Question 12: Is the ratio of student to teacher at a maximum of 15 to 1?

Answer: It is expected that applicants maintain a staff to student maximum ratio of 1:15 for all activities, except for physical activities which should be a 1:25. For staffing requirements please refer to the *Staffing and Certification* section on page 23 of the NGO

Question 13: Who chooses the grant liaison?

Answer: The grant liaison is a district employee, selected by the school district.

Question 14: Do we need to allocate money in the budget for evaluation?

Answer: School districts are not required to allocate money for evaluation. However, costs associated with the grant liaison are considered an allowable expense.

Question 15: Can you utilize provisional teachers for the program?

Answer: All grant instructional staff need to have at minimum a Certificate of Eligibility with Advanced Standing (CEAS) or Certificate of Eligibility (CE) to work on the program.

Question 16: Can the grant include current 9th graders entering Grade 10 in the 2016-2017 school year?

Answer: Yes. Eligible students would include those who are currently in grades 3-9 for the 2015-2016 school year.

Question 17: Is food for parents an allowable expense?

Answer: Yes, refreshments may be budgeted for parent involvement activities.

Question 18: Does the grant program have to run for 30 school days, or 30 calendar days?

Answer: The summer program should consist of 30 instructional days. Please refer to the *Minimum Service Hours* section on page 6 of the NGO.

Question 19: Can we focus on a specific content area or does it have to be English Language Arts (ELA) and Math?

Answer: Title I funds are used to help students meet the state's measurable academic achievement standards, so ELA, math and science would be acceptable content areas.

Question 20: Can we provide lunch if we are doing a long day?

Answer: Yes, only if the district does not offer lunch for other summer programs. If the district operates any Department of Agriculture feeding sites during the summer months, then grant funds may not be used for this purpose.

Question 21: How detailed does the budget need to be?

Answer: Please refer to guidance in the *Pre-award Manual for Discretionary Grants* found on the OGM webpage and referenced in the NGO.

Question 22: Must we provide students with transportation?

Answer: It is the responsibility of the applicant agency to ensure the safety of each child to and from the program site. Please see the *Transportation* section on pages 24 -25 of the NGO.