Regional Project Descriptions

Four additional DSAC grant priorities have been identified for the Northeast DSAC region:

1. Regional Level 3 Accelerated Improvement Planning (AIP)
2. World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA) Network
3. High School Leadership Network
4. Learning Walkthrough Implementation

Funds for these regional priorities are available in addition to the base district DSAC grant allotment.

1. **Level 3 Accelerated Improvement Planning (AIP):** There is a need to accelerate achievement for all students through the development of a focused, actionable and sustainable district planning process. Funds may be used to support Level 3 AIP development and implementation. AIP Teams from eligible districts will convene to work with AIP Facilitators and be trained in the Level 3 AIP process. District AIP Teams would then work with the AIP Facilitators to develop the district-based Accelerated Improvement Plan.

   $5,000 is available. Districts may request up to $2,500 for stipends, substitute costs and travel expenses to participate in the multi-district training taking place 2-3 times during the year.
   
   a. **Objective #1:** To develop, implement and monitor a Level 3 Accelerated Improvement Plan that will transform instructional practices at all levels within the district.
   b. **Objective #2:** To facilitate cross-district collaboration in the development, implementation and monitoring of plans to improve instructional practice and student achievement.
   c. **Outcomes:** Participating districts will develop, implement and monitor an Accelerated Improvement Plan. AIP Teams will convene across districts to share best practice in the development, implementation and monitoring of the AIP.
   d. **Participants:** Priority will be given to districts that have completed a District Review by the DESE Office of Accountability and that have not completed a Level 3 AIP
   e. **Timeline:** January: Convene AIP Team; January – May: Develop AIP; June - July: Convene cross-district meeting of AIP teams
   f. **Budget:** Up to $2,500 per eligible districts with fund use for stipends, substitutes and travel expenses related to AIP development.

2. **World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA) Network:** There is a need to bring together educators around the implementation of best practices in support of English Language Learners. The network would focus on the implementation of WIDA standards, development of Model Performance Indicators (MPIs), meeting AMAO target improvement goals, data analysis of ACCESS and MCAS test results and SEI strategies that lead to instructional improvement for ELLs.

   $15,000 is available. All Districts may apply for up to $3,000 for stipends, substitute costs and travel expenses to participate in the network. Districts may apply for up to $5,000 to
act as the lead agency for a regional partnership. Regional partnership funds may be used for consultant support for regional professional development in the implementation of WIDA standards and in-district consultation, classroom observations and implementation feedback.

a. **Objective #1:** To conduct learning walk-throughs and classroom observations to provide feedback on the implementation of WIDA standards, SEI and MPIs.
b. **Objective #2:** To provide professional development and consultation in the integration of WIDA standards and the development of MPIs in model curriculum units.
c. **Objective #3:** To provide support for Level 3 districts in the analysis of ACCESS and MCAS student performance data and the application of WIDA standards to support improvement for ELLs.
d. **Outcomes:** Participants will convene teams comprised of classroom teachers, ESL teachers and school and administrators to develop and implement WIDA standards, SEI strategies and MPIs and to analyze ACCESS test results and sub-group MCAS data and develop strategies to strengthen instructional practices to support academic achievement for English Language Learners.
e. **Participants:** Participation in the WIDA Network is open to all Northeast Region Level 3 districts. Priority for in-district consultation will be given to districts that did not meet AMAO Targets.

3. **High School Leadership Network:** The purpose of the High School Leadership Network is to bring together leadership teams from high schools to explore the complex issues of school improvement at the secondary level. The network will support connections with Educator Evaluation goals and measurements.

   $15,000 is available. All Districts may apply for up to $1,500 for stipends, substitute costs and travel expenses to participate in the network. Districts may apply for up to $10,000 to act as the lead agency for a regional partnership. Regional partnership funds may be used for consultant support for the implementation and facilitation of a High School network.

   a. **Objective #1:** To utilize PLC protocols to strengthen institutional capacity to think and act strategically about systemic school improvement.
b. **Objective #2:** To develop a theory of action and implement and monitor improvement strategies in a targeted area of school improvement
c. **Objective #3:** To explore potential resources and evidence-based practices in high school improvement and to share best practices
d. **Outcomes:** Participants will learn about effective strategies and resources and have a chance to implement and monitor these strategies in the classroom.
e. **Participants:** Priority will be given to districts with a L-3 high school

4. **Learning Walkthrough Implementation:** There is a need to support the involvement of teachers in the training and implementation of Learning Walkthroughs that focus on instructional practice. Funds will be used to support substitute costs for teams of teachers involved in Learning Walkthrough training and implementation.

   **Grant Funding Source – (Source to be identified):** $5,000 is available to support substitute costs to allow teachers to participate in Learning Walkthrough training and implementation.

   a. **Objective #1:** To support teacher involvement in Learning Walkthrough training and implementation.
b. **Objective #2**: To utilize data / evidence from Learning Walkthroughs to support the improvement of instructional practices

c. **Outcomes**: Teachers and school leaders will utilize Learning Walkthroughs as a strategy to improve instruction.

d. **Participants**: Priority will be given to participants from L-3 schools.

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLYING FOR REGIONAL FUNDS

### GENERAL GUIDANCE AND INSTRUCTIONS

- All Level 3 and Level 4 districts and districts exiting Level 3 in 2014 that are served by the Northeast DSAC are eligible to participate in these priorities and opportunities.

- District participation in regional priority projects is *optional*.

- Eligible districts may apply to participate in all four priority projects.

- A single district, acting as **lead agency** for a partnership of districts, will apply for funds on behalf of the partnership for **Priorities 2 and 3**. If your district is acting as lead agency for one or more of these projects, please see the instructions below for specific guidance on applying for these funds.

- A district may act as lead agency for more than one regional priority project.

- Districts taking part in Regional Priorities may use their base district DSAC grant allotment for stipends, substitutes and travel expenses related to participation in these projects.

- Districts may submit a single grant application that includes both their base district DSAC grant allotment and any funds for any priorities. Additional instructions on preparing the narrative and budget workbook for each priority area are detailed below.

- Districts may also choose to submit partial applications. That way a district or partnership has the flexibility to get school year activities funded immediately and make decisions about how any remaining funds will be used at a later date. Districts exercising this option will subsequently amend the appropriate budget workbook(s) and need to do so by the DSAC grant deadline of **March 13, 2015**.

For instance, a district acting as lead agency for Priority 2 may want to submit a narrative and budget workbook in early January in order to get the WIDA network launched during the school year. If the district plans to use its base DSAC grant allotment for summer activities, it could take additional time to plan how it will use its base DSAC grant allotment and submit a budget workbook amendment and revised grant narrative closer to the March 13, 2015 deadline for submission of completed DSAC grants.

- The actual amount of additional funding awarded for each priority project will depend upon the number of districts and partnerships submitting applications that meet the criteria for funding.
Once you complete your grant application, the DSAC Regional Assistance Director will review the forms to ensure that they reflect the plan agreed upon during the collaboration process. If the agreement differs substantially from the plan originally agreed upon during the collaboration process, the DSAC Regional Assistance Director may contact the district and, if necessary, ask for a revised plan.

The DSAC Regional Assistance Director will send an e-mail indicating approval of the plan. The DSAC Regional Assistance Director will also send a copy of the forms, along with a copy of the approval e-mail, to ESE’s Regional System of Support. This completes the process for submitting your regional priorities grant proposal.

If you have questions about completing the application materials, please e-mail or call Karen Johnston, the Regional System of Support Coordinator, for assistance (kjohnston@doe.mass.edu; 781-338-3539).

**REGIONAL PRIORITY 1: REGIONAL LEVEL 3 ACCELERATED IMPROVEMENT PLANNING**

Individual districts may apply for up to $2,500 for stipends, substitute costs and travel expenses related to participation in this opportunity.

- Proposed budget expenditures for Priority 1 may be incorporated into the same budget workbook you are using for your district’s DSAC grant allotment.

- Complete the *Regional Priorities* worksheet in the 220-E workbook:
  - Select *Level 3 Accelerated Improvement Planning* from the dropdown menu for Projects
  - Indicate the amount of funding you are requesting for Priority 1.

- Provide details on proposed expenditures the *Budget Summary* worksheet.
  - Wherever possible, use the Regional Priorities categories in the budget worksheet

**REGIONAL PRIORITIES 2 AND 3: WORLD-CLASS INSTRUCTIONAL DESIGN AND ASSESSMENT (WIDA) NETWORK, AND HIGH SCHOOL LEADERSHIP NETWORK**

Districts planning to apply for regional priorities 2 and/or 3 should note the following expectations and funding priorities for these projects.

Applicants will be expected to:

- Develop regional partnerships which, at a minimum, must include at least two Level 3 or 4 DSAC-served districts and the regional DSAC; and
- Work in partnership with the regional District and School Assistance Center (DSAC) to facilitate professional learning across the partnership and region.

Priority will be given to proposals that demonstrate:

- Partnerships of multiple Northeast DSAC Region districts;
- A viable timeline for achieving project objectives; and
- Appropriate use of funds.

*Please use the following guidance and instructions if you plan to participate in this project.*
• Select one district in the partnership to act as the lead agency for the regional priority project. This district will submit a narrative and detailed budget for the project on behalf of the partnership.

• Superintendents of districts committed to taking part in the project should send an e-mail affirming their participation in the network to the lead agency and the Northeast DSAC Regional Assistance Director. Copies of these e-mails should be included in the grant application.

• The narrative for the priority project should be appended to the lead agency’s Part III: Plan for Grant Fund Use form. Part III, Section B does not need to be completed for Regional Priorities.

• The grant narrative should:
  o Briefly describe how the network will address the objectives articulated in the description above. Your proposal may include goals and objectives in addition to those above.
  o Include a list of all districts and schools committed to taking part in the partnership. Please indicate those schools that are Level 3 and 4.
  o Lay out a realistic timeline for the activities of the network.
  o Provide a detailed budget of proposed expenditures.

• Guidance on completing 220E budget workbooks for district acting as Lead Agency for Regional Priority 2 or 3
  o Proposed budget expenditures may be incorporated into the same 220E budget workbook(s) you are using for your district’s base DSAC grant allotment (i.e., School Year and/or Summer)
  o Complete the Regional Priorities worksheet in the 220E workbook for lead agency
    ▪ Select WIDA Network Lead Agency or High School Leader’s Network Lead Agency from the dropdown menu for Projects
    ▪ Indicate the amount of funding you are requesting on the appropriate line.
  o Complete the Regional Priorities worksheet in the 220E workbook for individual district
    ▪ Select WIDA Network or High School Leader’s Network from the dropdown menu for Projects
    ▪ Indicate the amount of funding you are requesting on the appropriate line.
  o Add the proposed expenditures to the Budget Summary worksheet in the appropriate 220E budget workbook(s)
    ▪ Wherever possible, use the Regional Priorities categories in the budget worksheet

Individual districts may apply for costs related to participation in this opportunity.

• Proposed budget expenditures for Priority 2 or 3 may be incorporated into the same 220-E budget workbook you are using for your district’s DSAC grant allotment.

• Complete the Regional Priorities worksheet in the 220-E workbook:
  o Select WIDA Network or High School Leader’s Network from the dropdown menu for Projects
Indicate the amount of funding you are requesting for Priority 2 and/or 3.

• Provide details on proposed expenditures in the Budget Summary worksheet.
  • Wherever possible, use the Regional Priorities categories in the budget worksheet

REGIONAL PRIORITIES 3: LEARNING WALKTHROUGH IMPLEMENTATION

Individual districts may apply for up to $1,000 for substitute costs related to participation in this opportunity.

• Proposed budget expenditures for Priority 4 may be incorporated into the same 220-E budget workbook you are using for your district’s DSAC grant allotment.

• Complete the Regional Priorities worksheet in the 220-E workbook:
  o Select Learning Walkthrough Implementation from the dropdown menu for Projects
  o Indicate the amount of funding you are requesting for Priority 4.

• Provide details on proposed expenditures in the Budget Summary worksheet.
  • Wherever possible, use the Regional Priorities categories in the budget worksheet