Fund Code 117/225B – Evidence-Based Practice Grant

Submitted Questions

1. **Would this include consideration for summer programing for students requiring or benefitting from intervention in a general education setting?**

Depending on the evidence-based practice area on which the district is focusing, a summer program may be one of the grant activities supporting the strategies prioritized in this funding opportunity. While this grant is NOT a summer programming grant, summer could be leveraged for intervention delivery and increased engagement as part of a focused program area.

For example, should a district choose to focus on Early Literacy, it may determine (based on robust data analysis) that student needs would be well-served by establishing a supplemental tutoring program to support students’ accelerated literacy learning. This may include a high-dosage tutoring program aligned to research-based instructional practices. Although this would be an allowable expenditure, summer programming for these purposes would only be a small component of the overall implementation of Early Literacy programming which is intended for all students.

*Please note that summer programming for a select group of students does not meet the requirements of expanded learning time (ELT). ELT is intended to support a redesigned school day or year for all students in the school*.

1. **We are a regional public school district and we do not have a solid plan for early elementary ELA in district. Would this be something that would qualify?**

Yes! Any public school district is eligible to apply for this funding opportunity, provided it has submitted a Student Opportunity Act amendment that meets [statutory requirements](https://www.doe.mass.edu/soa/plans.html). Additionally, Early Literacy is one of the evidence-based program areas on which this grant is intended to focus. Please reference Appendix A in the RFP posting for specific information on prioritized strategies related to Early Literacy.

1. **I am unable to attend the webinar on Thursday, 12/22, but I would welcome more information about this grant. Will you be distributing a recording of the webinar, and if so, could you please include me on the distribution list?**

We will be posting the recorded webinar to our [website](https://www.doe.mass.edu/turnaround/redesign/default.html) and will make our best effort to send a copy to those who have emailed interest in receiving it. You may access the recorded webinar as follows:

[FY23 Evidence-Based Practices Grant Webinar - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xR48gIOke_0)

1. **Is there a posting available with details on DESE's site yet for this grant? It would be valuable to know whether there is a list of eligible schools (or what the specific eligibility requirements are in relation to serving low-income students), what the application deadline is, and what the ranges are for available funding in the different program areas. (Our school is) interested in applying to support in our teacher recruitment and retention strategy, so I am hopeful that this grant could be a good fit.**

This [grant has been posted on the DESE website](https://www.doe.mass.edu/grants/2023/117-225B/). The due date for the application is January 26, 2023 and all public school districts with submitted SOA plans that meet statutory requirements are eligible (see question 2 above). Priority points during the scoring process will be granted to:

a. Districts and schools in chronically underperforming status;

b. Districts serving ≥ (at least) 25 percent of students who are identified as low-income as indicated at the [Department's School and District profiles page](https://profiles.doe.mass.edu/search/search.aspx?leftNavId=11238) or through other documented evidence;

c. Eligible districts in the Commonwealth receiving [rural school aid](https://www.doe.mass.edu/finance/chapter70/foundation/fy2022-rural-school-aid.html);

d. Districts with an increase in Chapter 70 funding up to, but not above $1.5 million; and

e. Applications that reflect a strong commitment to enhancing culturally and linguistically responsive instruction and establishing / strengthening systems that promote and foster equity with a particular focus on students who have been historically underserved by our education systems, including but not limited to those who identify as Black, Hispanic/Latino, Asian, Indigenous, and Multiracial students, students with disabilities, English learners, LGBTQIA+ students, students experiencing homelessness and/or financial insecurity, and students who are undocumented.

Approximately $9,000,000 is available for schools and districts and is contingent upon availability. Districts may apply for between $50,000 – $300,000 annually per EBP, and awards will be based on the size of the district/school sites and scope of the proposed project. Due to an abbreviated FY23 timeline, awards during Year 1 are anticipated to be less than in Years 2 and 3, with full implementation FY24 and FY25.

1. **As a virtual school that has not participated in previous SOA activities, are we eligible to apply?**

Unfortunately, no. Only public school districts with submitted SOA plans that meet statutory requirements are eligible to apply for this funding opportunity.

1. **Our district received a summer learning grant last year, and we were told the opportunity would be continued for this summer.  Do you know if this new grant opportunity is related or takes the place of that summer learning grant?**

The grant you received last year seems to be specific to summer learning and is not the same as this funding opportunity. You may want to refer to our [Grants Management page](https://www.doe.mass.edu/grants/). It is also possible that the grant to which you are referring is the [Development and Expansion of High-Quality Summer Learning](https://www.doe.mass.edu/grants/2023/527-525-523/). Again, refer to our Grants Management web page for information on summer learning grants.

1. **What kinds of activities will this new grant will support in terms of particular staffing.  We are concerned about the dropoff of ESSER funding that we used to date to support additional counselors, teachers and personnel that work with increased student mental health, behavioral and academic needs following COVID**.

One of the most pressing concerns that districts have been facing is recruiting and retaining high-quality staff. For this reason, one of the four evidence-based practices that this grant will support is the ***Recruitment and Retention of Educators in Hard-to-Staff Positions and/or Schools***. Some of the strategies that this grant will prioritize under this evidence-based program are:

1. Investing in pre-service pipeline programs (e.g., teacher apprenticeships, residency models, [Grow Your Own](https://ies.ed.gov/ncee/edlabs/regions/northwest/pdf/strategies-for-educators.pdf) models) in partnership with [approved sponsoring organizations](https://profiles.doe.mass.edu/search/search.aspx?leftNavId=11238), with a focus on:
2. High school to college pathways
3. Paraprofessional supports and pipeline programs
4. Supports for emergency licensed educators to advance to provisional or initial licensure
5. Establishing a robust induction, mentoring, and feedback program for new teachers and/or novice principals with a focus on:
6. Training and supports for high quality mentors to ensure sufficient capacity and expertise
7. Differentiation per individual educator needs (i.e., role-alike supports, mentoring for emergency or provisionally licensed educators)
8. Intentional scope and sequence aligned to [Standards for Effective Teaching](https://www.doe.mass.edu/lawsregs/603cmr35.html?section=03) and [Leading](https://www.doe.mass.edu/lawsregs/603cmr35.html?section=04), including antiracist leadership competencies (see DESE [Model Handbook for Principal Induction & Mentoring](https://www.doe.mass.edu/edeffectiveness/mentor/principal.html))
9. Establishing data-driven systems for the recruitment, selection, retention, and robust training of instructional staff.
10. **Is there a recorded webinar that contains information on the grant?**

Yes. A webinar took place on December 22, 2022. Access to the recorded webinar is as follows:

[FY23 Evidence-Based Practices Grant Webinar - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xR48gIOke_0)

1. **Where can I find a contractor or vendor to support our work in any of these program areas?**

Your district may have connections to a variety of organizations that are ready and willing to support you as you approach this work. Be sure to start with your district contacts, ask your principals, ask your teachers! Should you have difficulty identifying someone through these resources, you may also consider reviewing our [list](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.doe.mass.edu%2Fsfss%2Fpartnerships%2Fprequalified-vendors-list.xlsx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK) of pre-approved partner list and contact information which can also be found at the bottom of the [web page here](https://www.doe.mass.edu/sfss/partnerships/default.html). This list can be filtered to find a partner that best suits your needs based on the service area category or area of expertise delivery.