



High-Quality Instruction – Summer Planning Grants

Applicant Conference Call 1-22-19, 10:00 AM
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Meeting ID: 821 880 345



Overview

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Important Links

- High-Quality Instruction Grant Posting - <http://www.doe.mass.edu/grants/2019/144-218/>
- Strengthening Curriculum in Massachusetts - <http://www.doe.mass.edu/candi/impd/>
- Key Shifts - <http://www.doe.mass.edu/grants/2019/144-218/frameworks-key-shifts.docx>
- OpenSciEd - <https://www.openscienced.org/openscienced/>
- Our contact information - [Slide 21](#)



Background

This grant supports districts that are at varying stages in the process of adopting high-quality instructional materials. Approximately **\$160,000** is available through the Federal Title IIA grant and Targeted Assistance State funding and will be distributed based on the number of quality proposals submitted and approved.

The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's (Department's) academic vision is for every student in Massachusetts to have access to a safe and supportive school environment that cultivates their academic curiosity and confidence. Instruction is most powerful when educators have access to high quality instructional materials and professional learning that promotes inclusive practice accessible to all students, including English learners and students with disabilities, and also supports authentic, engaging, and integrated student learning experiences.

Massachusetts districts are seeking to ensure that their curricular materials are aligned to our challenging state standards, and with good reason. Recent research has found that, in some cases, the adoption of high-quality instructional materials produced a larger effect on student learning than the effect of having an experienced teacher versus a novice teacher.¹

Background

For the context of this grant, high-quality instructional materials are defined as those that have been verified as aligned to rigorous college- and career-ready standards by a neutral third-party evaluator - for example, [EdReports.org](https://edreports.org) and [Best Evidence Encyclopedia](https://bestevidence.org). For instructional materials where no such third-party evaluation exists, districts will be required to provide their criteria for determining that instructional materials are high-quality.

High-quality means exhibiting a coherent sequence of target skills and understandings, evidence of impact if available, and other characteristics such as inclusive design. Some factors in quality are non-negotiable, while others vary by context: for example, an otherwise excellent online textbook may not be a high-quality choice for a rural district with limited Internet access.

Standards-aligned refers to the content and cognitive demand of the learning standards in the Massachusetts curriculum frameworks at the appropriate grade level (and therefore also relates to coherence within and across grades). Every public elementary and secondary school in the state must ensure that every student has access to standards-aligned curriculum.

01

The Pathways

Path 1: Adopting high-quality instructional materials

Overview:

- Funding will be provided for districts to establish Curriculum Councils over the spring/summer of 2019.
 - Councils must have representation from a wide range of stakeholders within the district

Intended outcomes:

- Formation of Curriculum Council to guide instructional materials decision making process
- Detailed plan for instructional materials decision making process including:
 - Timeline with key benchmarks
 - Communication plan
 - Piloting process including staff feedback surveys
- Preliminary plan for teacher/staff professional development to prepare for implementation of adopted program
- Adopt high-quality instructional materials for use in one or more subjects/grade spans by June 30, 2020.

Path 1: Adopting high-quality instructional materials

Priority:

Priority will be given to districts that have not yet adopted high-quality instructional materials, as defined on slide 5, for Mathematics, ELA/literacy, or Science, Technology/Engineering. Proposals that repurpose existing councils will be considered, but the need for grant funding must be clearly articulated.

Funding

- No greater than 5% of funds may be dedicated toward administrative costs associated with the grant
- 95% of funds must go toward teacher stipends
- Individual awards of between \$5,000–\$10,000 for Path 1 applications, contingent on available funds.

Path 2: Implementing high-quality instructional materials

Overview:

- Funding will be provided to districts to hold professional development over the spring/summer of 2019.
- The professional development must be
 - Teacher-led,
 - Collaborative,
 - Inquiry-driven,
 - Specific to the adopted high-quality instructional materials,
 - Address [key instructional shifts](#) associated with the 2016 STE and 2017 Mathematics and ELA/Literacy Frameworks.

Intended outcomes:

- Teachers in one or more subject areas/grade spans participate in content specific professional development aligned to high-quality instructional materials.
- Teachers report and demonstrate improved ability to implement instructional strategies to meet the key shifts associated with the 2016 STE and 2017 Mathematics and ELA/Literacy Frameworks.



Path 2: Implementing high-quality instructional materials

Priority:

Priority will be given to districts that have already adopted high-quality instructional materials, as defined on slide 5, for Mathematics, ELA/literacy, or Science, Technology/Engineering. Districts that completed Path 1 during summer 2018 are encouraged to apply, however this is not a prerequisite.

Funding

- No greater than 5% of funds may be dedicated toward administrative costs associated with the grant
- 95% of funds must go toward teacher stipends
- Individual awards reflective of the size of the district student population;
 - Districts with a student population under 10,000 students -> \$5,000–\$10,000
 - Districts with a student population over 10,000 students -> \$10,000–\$20,000

Path 3: Piloting high-quality middle school STE (OpenSciEd)

Overview:

- The Department is participating in the [OpenSciEd](#) project to develop high-quality STE instructional materials and participating districts would play a role in evaluating their effectiveness and quality.
- Applicants should plan for approximately 6-8 participating teachers; smaller districts may think about partnering across teacher categories or including teachers from neighboring districts.

Intended outcomes:

- Pilot high-quality STE instructional materials in one or more subjects/grade spans during the 2019-2020 academic year.

Additional Details: <http://www.doe.mass.edu/grants/2019/144-218/path3.docx>



Path 3: Piloting high-quality middle school STE (OpenSciEd)

Priority:

Priority will be given to districts who demonstrate the need to replace existing middle school instructional materials and are interested in participating in a middle school science curriculum pilot for high-quality, standards-aligned open-source instructional materials.

Funding

- At least four (4) individual awards of approximately \$10,000, contingent on available funds.
 - No greater than \$6,000 of funds may be dedicated to materials and supplies (see [additional detail document](#));
 - No greater than \$499 of funds may be dedicated to administrative costs;
 - Up to 100% of funds may be dedicated to teacher stipends.

02

Eligibility and Priority

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All Massachusetts Local Education Agencies (districts) are eligible to apply for this grant.

Districts may apply for up to three (3) paths; applicants **must complete one application for each path they select.**

Districts containing schools in need of Focused/targeted or Broad/comprehensive support and Districts requiring Broad/comprehensive support will be given competitive priority in scoring.

03

Timeline and Requirements

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Timeline:

- Applications Due: **5:00 pm, Friday, February 15th, 2019**
- Fund Code 144 (Federal) — Upon Approval – 8/31/2019
- Fund Code 218 (State) — Upon Approval – 6/30/2019*

*The state funded awardees (FC: 218) will have the option to extend their fund use into the summer months (FY2020 — July 1, 2019 – August 31, 2019). In order to take advantage of this extension, awardees will have to complete the Multi-Year form in EdGrants in May of 2019. More information regarding multi-year will be forthcoming.

Reporting and Required Conference Call:

- Each grant recipient must complete two required points of contact with DESE:
 - Conference call held at **10:00 AM on July 24th, 2019** to discuss the status of grant-funded programs.
 - Complete a brief Grant Final (End-of-Year) Report to be submitted no later than **Friday, September 27th, 2019.**
- Each Path 1 or 2 grant recipient must also complete one additional report
 - Complete a brief survey of participating educators as evidence of completing pathway outcomes. (Surveys to be provided by DESE). Report to be submitted no later than **Friday, December 20th, 2019.**



04

Q & A

Funding

- You mentioned that this grant money has been available in the past. Were there any Level 1-2 schools granted money? – **Yes, Level 1-2 schools were funded during summer 2018**

Path 2

- Our district is looking to develop new HS Biology Curriculum maps based on the 2016 Standards/Framework. We adopted a new textbook program during Summer 2018 and will be building the curriculum maps using the new textbook program as one resource. Would Path 2 be appropriate for this work? - **Yes, that would be an appropriate Path 2 Task**
- Is there a pathway for districts who are creating their own UbD curriculum units and not looking to purchase a program? Is there a way to cover this type of curriculum work but also the PD associated with the content and instructional practices identified in the curriculum? - **Curriculum mapping fits into Path 2, however the goal of these grants is the implementation of “high-quality” materials that have been reviewed by third party agencies. Therefore, the creation of district developed units would fall outside of the scope of this grant. It will depend on the specifics of the application.**
- So, for pathway 2, districts couldn't hire outside folks to do the PL? – **The professional development must be teacher-led, therefore funds cannot pay for an outside provider.**
- Would Pathway 2 be available for middle school teachers (Grade 7 & 8)? Would you also be able to do other grade levels as well under Pathway 2? – **Path 2 activities can be for any grade k – 12.**
- Do you need to see the survey within the application, for Path 2. – **The teacher survey to be completed in Fall 2019 will be provided by DESE.**
- I know the focus is on teacher-led PD, so I am wondering if it is appropriate to design a summer program that prepares teacher leaders to engage teachers in PD sessions in the summer, continuing into the school year even after the program ends – **Yes, the PD could be just the start of a series of PD over the school year. Funding will end 8/31**

Questions

Path 2

- Is there a list of high quality programs that are acceptable for HS Science?- **There is not a list at this time, but we recommend vetting programs through the [NextGen Time](#) toolkit or [EQulP rubric](#).**
- PL for teacher leaders would also need to be trained by other teachers in order to apply for pathway 2? - **Summer PD to train teacher leaders to run additional PD would fit into Path 2.**
- If we apply for both Math and ELA for path 2, do the 2 disciplines share the \$5-10K? – **Yes, one application for each path per district.**
- If we have adopted an elementary math program and are now purchasing an updated version, can we apply for pathway 2 because there are changes? - **Yes, as long as the program has been determined to be high-quality.**

Path 3

- For path 3: would this year and next both be for implementing the new program? – **Yes, The application for this year will cover just this year, however the piloting program will run into the 2020-21 school year.**
- For Path 3 is there consideration for new districts that did not field test last year? - **Districts that did not field test last year will be on an accelerated piloting schedule.**
- Are we able to preview the Open SciEd units being piloted now? – **Yes this is possible. Please contact Nicole Scola nscola@doe.mass.edu for more information.**

General

- There are deadline dates in several places. One said the proposal is due by 2/15/19 to Ian S, the other said proposal is due 3/2/19 to Matt H. Please clarify. - **The Deadline for submission is 2/15/19 to Ian Stith, istith@doe.mass.edu**
- When are awardees announced? – **We anticipate approximately mid-March**
- To clarify ... if we apply for path 1 and path 2, do we submit 2 separate applications? – **Yes, one application for each path.**

THANK YOU



Contact us

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