

FC 335 Safe and Supportive Schools Competitive Grant Webinar

April 4, 2023

April 12, 2023

April 27, 2023 (Q&A Only)



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Overview of Grant

Overview of FC335 Grant

- FY24 RFP: will be available on the grants page soon (<https://www.doe.mass.edu/grants/current.html>)
- The purpose of this state funded competitive grant program is to:
 - Provide funding to school districts (and their selected schools) to organize, integrate, and sustain school and district-wide efforts to create safe and supportive school environments.
 - Assist school districts to coordinate and align student support initiatives based on their findings from completing the Safe and Supportive Schools (SaSS) Framework and Self-Reflection Tool

Priorities:

- The main priorities for this grant are:
 - to help ensure that each participating school creates an equitable, safe, positive, healthy, culturally-competent, and inclusive whole-school learning environment for all students, and
 - makes effective use of a system for integrating services and aligning initiatives that promote students' behavioral health and wellness, through one of two grant applicant options.

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Option 1 – Action Planning

Option One - Overview

- Convene a school team composed of various stakeholders including the developmentally appropriate input from students to review and respond to the questions in the SaSS Tool;
- Propose to use the SaSS Tool during the grant period;
- Identify school and district areas to prioritize for improvements; and
- Finalize a school action plan that is aligned to school and district priorities, and a district action plan that supports the schools' efforts.
- The action plan will address:
 - Leadership and Culture
 - Family and Community Engagement
 - Professional Learning Opportunities
 - Access to Resources and Services
 - Teaching and Learning that fosters Safe and Supportive Environments
 - Policies and Procedures
- Once awarded, Option 1 grantees will be required to participate in DESE-provided asynchronous PD or show evidence of completing similar PD.

Option One - Fund Use

- These funds must be used to support the development of action plans that incorporate all six levers of the SaSS Tool.
- Grant funded activities may include:
 - Convening the team to engage in relevant learning prior to completing the SaSS tool;
 - Completion of the tool;
 - Time to develop action plans; and
 - Supporting participation in networking and professional development.
- Grant funds may be used for:
 - teacher stipends,
 - consultants,
 - substitutes, and
 - materials to be used in the development of action plans

Applicants should not include in their application requests for funds to support activities related to action plan implementation.

Option One - Fund Use *Continued*

- All applicants may consider partnering with consultants to help facilitate the action planning process.
- All applicants may also consider partnering with community-based organizations including early childhood education and afterschool or out of school time providers for alignment and collaboration.
- **Funds cannot be used for: electronics (such as iPads, computers, tablets, etc.) or construction**

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Option 2 – Implementation and Support

Option Two - Overview

- **Begin or continue to implement school-focused action plans (and associated district-support plans) that were created in prior years using the SaSS Tool.**
- Serve as supports for:
 - Option One grantees,
 - Other new SaSS Tool users,
 - Schools and districts that are new to implementation, and/or
 - The Department, Commission, and others as needed and appropriate.
- The areas of support may include:
 - Providing feedback to the Department or the Commission at meetings,
 - Presenting at online, regional, and statewide conferences, or
 - Providing direct support or guidance to Option One grantees related to using the Framework and Tool to inform action plan creation and implementation, or
 - Another area agreed to by the applicant and Department

Option Two - Fund Use

- These funds must be used to:
 - Implement action plans that incorporate all six sections of the SaSS Tool and
 - Support efforts associated with support activities.
- Implementation activities may include but are not limited to:
 - Development of school-based models for coordinated support of students in need;
 - Implementation of research-based educational programs;
 - Activities that address and reduce substance use related problems; and/or
 - Development of information systems to help identify students at risk, track interventions and evaluate progress and outcomes.
- Grant funds may be used for:
 - A school and district-level implementation coordinator(s);
 - Consultants;
 - Substitutes;
 - Evidence-based programs/initiatives; and
 - Materials to be used in implementation
 - Stipends for the members of the team that will be responsible for the mentorship/support activities, or for any appropriate costs associated with mentoring/support.

Option Two- Fund Use *Continued*

- All applicants may consider partnering with consultants for implementation.
- All applicants may also consider partnering with community-based organizations including early childhood education and afterschool or out of school time providers for alignment and collaboration.
- **Funds cannot be used for: electronics (such as iPads, computers, tablets, etc.) or construction**

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Application Procedures

Funding Requests

- Applicants may apply for up to \$50,000 total, with a maximum of \$10,000 per school under Option one: Action Planning.
- Applicants may apply for up to \$20,000 per district under Option two: Implementation and Support.

Additional Funding Factors

- Priority points will be given to:
 - Districts with schools that have received a preliminary identification in the [Rethinking Discipline Initiative](#)
 - Approximately 30 percent of the total amount available to award is available for applicant schools and districts in chronically underperforming status.
- The Department may consider factors such as geographic distribution when making awards.
- Grant awards shall be prioritized to applications that include a process for developmentally appropriate input from students who are reflective of the school population.
- Should additional funds become available, the Department may redistribute those funds in an equitable manner among other awarded grantees or to applicants who were not initially awarded grant funds.

Eligibility

- Massachusetts public school districts and educational collaboratives are eligible to apply for funding.
- Even if a district/entity doesn't meet priority criteria they're encouraged to apply if interested (as long as eligible to apply)
- **Each applicant may only apply for one of the two Options** (Option one: Action Planning, or Option two: Implementation and Support).

Collaborative Information

Educational collaboratives may:

- consider applying for this grant to carry out safe and supportive school grant activities for the collaborative's own full-time educational programs.
- apply on behalf of interested school districts to help support and facilitate school and district-based teams with multiple stakeholder involvement to engage in the grant activities described earlier and throughout this grant opportunity.
 - *If applying to support more than one school district, applications should be submitted for each district individually*

Required Forms

- Part I, General-Program Unit Signature Page
 - Complete and submit signed Part I for FY2024 (upon approval through June 30, 2024)
- Part II, Budget Template
- Part III, Required Program Information
 - Complete Part IIIA only if applying for Option One: Action Planning or
 - Complete Part IIIB only if applying for Option Two: Implementation and Support
- Grant Assurances
 - Complete the applicable portion of the document for either Option One: Action Planning or Option Two: Implementation and Support and submit with the application
- Option 2 Only: submit a copy of an action plan created using the SaSS tool

Due Date and Submission Instructions

- Due date:
 - **Friday, May 12, 2023**
 - Proposals must be received at the Department by 5:00 p.m. on the date due.
- Please submit all application materials electronically to achievement@doe.mass.edu
- All signature pages (Part I and Grant Assurances) must be signed, scanned, and submitted as 2 separate PDF documents.
- All budgets (Part II) must be submitted as Excel files, not as PDFs.
- Part III must be submitted as a PDF or in its original Word format.

Any item not submitted in the correct format may not be reviewed.

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Questions and Answers

THANK YOU

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