FAQ
Year 1 Competitive Grant

1. More details around District commitments:
   Year 1, Part 1
   - 6 days of District Team planning and implementing the middle grades plan January to June 2021
     - The SCRIPT Implementation planning 2 day workshop is K-12 planning.
     - The next 4 days is for implementing the middle grades part of the plan, i.e. the curriculum selected and the PD will be for grades 6-8. The makeup of the District team may change after the SCRIPT planning process.
   - District Team Point of Contact keeps the plan and other grant artifacts updated in an accessible location (e.g. Google), collects/reports data, and disseminates communication.

   Year 1, Part 2
   - Summer PD for Year 1 selected educators and coach(es). (This could be all one grade, one school, etc.)

   Continuation Year 2:
   - SY2021-2022 implement first year of plan in classrooms
   - District Team Point of Contact keeps the plan and other grant artifacts updated in an accessible location (e.g. Google), collects/reports data, and disseminates communication.
   - 2 days of District Team planning
   - PLC and tech support for educators and coach(es)
   - Summer PD for year 2 selected educators and coach(es). (Next grade, next schools, etc.)

2. SCRIPT plan?
   If you have a SCRIPT Implementation plan attach it to the proposal and, if selected, your district will skip the first 2 days of implementation planning. You would budget for 4 days for your District Team. If you want/need to start your plan over, send the plan with the proposal but, in the narrative, indicate that you want to participate in the workshop and make sure to have 6 days in the budget for your District Team.

3. Is it possible for us to use the planning sessions to think about a big-picture plan for K-12, but only implement for grades 6-8 during the grant duration?
   The first 2 days are the SCRIPT Implementation Planning Workshop, which is planning for K-12. Days 3-6 will focus on implementing the middle grades (6-8) part of the plan.

4. More budget details:
   The district team will meet for 6 days (Approval-June 2021) during school hours. Here you will budget for substitutes and travel expenses. The workshops will be held virtually. For the first 2 days, your district team will be developing a K-12 DLCS implementation plan and must have at least one district administrator, one school administrator, and one teacher. You are encouraged to invite a coach or other tech support person(s) and you should have someone that can speak for
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elementary, middle, and high school. Days 3-6 will focus on implementing the middle school part of the plan. Your team membership will likely change for this part of the workshops but should include at least one district administrator, one school administrator, and one teacher. You are encouraged to invite a coach or other tech support person(s).

You also need a District Team point of contact. This person will keep the plan and other grant artifacts updated in an accessible location (e.g. Google) and handle communication to the rest of the team from DESE, the Grant Evaluator, and the PD Coordinator. There will also be some data collection and reporting responsibility towards the end of the grant (1-2 hours/month).

**Budget Form Details:**
- District Team work (6 days) - sub-reimbursements would be listed in section #6 and travel expenses in section #8
- District Team Point of Contact (1-2 hours/month) – this could be sub-reimbursement in section #6 or a stipend in section #4.

Our Grants office offers helpful information around all parts of the grant process on their site. Here is the Guidelines for the Budgetary Information.

5. **Can we focus on other grades in addition to middle grades?**
   For the first year of the competitive grant, the implementation planning is K-12 but the focus for implementation in year 1 is middle grades 6-8. Curriculum selection and PD is planned for the middle grades. After the first year, a continuation grant (pending fund availability) will offer the opportunity to implement in other grades.

6. **Can this grant be utilized to purchase materials for CS integration? For example, Makey Makeys, if we intend to create our own integrated, project-based curriculum, could we use this for teacher PD and supplies?**
   The selection of the curriculum is not open to any curriculum or create-your-own, in this Grant. Curriculum must be selected from the Digital Literacy and Computer Science Curriculum Guide for Massachusetts Districts. This Guide was written in 2020 and will be updated in 2021.

7. **Is this to be taught during school hours or is this geared towards before/after school? Also, is there a curriculum provided? If so, can I take a look at the materials?**
   The grant is for in-school hours implementation and covers planning, curriculum, and PD (in Part2 of the grant). Districts will select from a curated list, of standards aligned, curricula in Digital Literacy and Computer Science Curriculum Guide for Massachusetts Districts.

8. **Do you have dates for the 6 District team workshop days in 2021?**
   No, we have not yet hired the PD Coordinator who will manage the workshop. The plan is to hold virtual workshops to be scheduled in collaboration with the selected Districts.
   - Day 1-2: The SCRIPT Implementation planning 2 day workshop is K-12 planning.
   - Day 3-6: The next 4 days is for further detailing and implementation of the middle grades part of the plan.
9. **District Team:** Could a Vice/Assistant Principal take the place of a Principal for the K-12 Implementation Planning and Middle Grades Implementation Workshops?
   Yes, if the person in question has the authority to make decision on course addition or modification and scheduling.

10. **Because we are lacking a K-12 DLCS Implementation Plan, can our team include K-12 educators? Would the grant support this? Of the 6 days of professional development, are all applicable to K-12 educators or are the initial 4 only applicable to middle level educators?**

   Yes, you should plan to include someone who can speak for elementary, middle, and high school for the first 2 days of the SCRIPT workshop. For the first 2 days, your district team will be developing a K-12 DLCS implementation plan and must have at least:
   - one district administrator
   - one school administrator
   - one teacher
   - you are encouraged to invite a coach or other tech support person(s)

   You should have someone who can speak for elementary, middle, and high school.

   Days 3-6 will focus on implementing the middle school part of the plan. Your team membership will likely change for this part of the workshops but should include at least:
   - one district administrator
   - one school administrator
   - one teacher
   - you are encouraged to invite a coach or other tech support person(s)

**Added 2/11/2021:**

11. **Is it possible for educators to do work as a team outside of the school day during the school year and use stipends rather than substitutes?**

   You can use stipends if you are proposing to meet outside of school hours. You can also propose shorter meetings over more days if you want to do it after school - as long as you have:
   - 36 hours (6 days for 6 hours) for **new** districts applying for DL Now for the first time
   - 18 hours (3 days for 6 hours) for **continuing** districts

   Since these are stipends and not pay, DESE is capping it to no more than the PD stipend of $200/day or $33.33/hour.

12. **Can you clarify Part 1 and Part 2 of this grant? I want to be sure I am applying for the correct part.**

   At this time you will only be filling out Part 1 of the grant with an application due date of February 19, 2021.

   For **new** districts:
   Part 1 provides for SCRIPT meetings in spring 2021 for district administration, educators, and support staff to document a K-12 DLCS Implementation Plan for the district. Additionally included in Part 1 is the District selecting curricula for middle school implementation beginning in September 2021. During the meetings in Part 1, we will help you to fill out Part 2. Part 2 provides funding for
the summer 2021 PD for the selected curricula as well as stipends for educators attending the summer 2021 PD.

For continuing districts:
Part 1 provides District team meetings in spring 2021 for review of the K-12 DLCS Implementation Plan, determination of the next grades in which to implement DLCS, and selection of curricula for those grades. During the meetings in Part 1, we will help you to fill out Part 2. Part 2 provides funding for the summer 2021 PD for the selected curricula as well as stipends for educators attending the summer 2021 PD.

13. The grant mentions a reporting out date this June, what does that involve?
This refers to data collected by the PD coordinator and the Grant evaluator contracted by DESE. The PD coordinator and Grant evaluator will be requesting Districts to complete surveys as part of the meetings and summer PD. In order to get proper reporting for the Grant, we ask the Districts to participate in the surveys.

14. Does the funding cover stipends for the teachers who will be participating in the work? When writing the grant, would we budget for a stipend that would cover paying the teacher for 6 days over the summer of 2021?
The full-day meetings (6 days for new districts, 3 for continuing districts) will occur between acceptance and June 30, 2021. Your budget should include either costs for substitutes or stipends, depending on whether you will plan for your meetings to be during school hours or outside of school hours. Please see question 11 for more information on the use of stipends.

15. Can the funding cover part of an educator salary for the 21-22 school year? For example, if we hire a part-time teacher for this work, could the grant cover the salary?
The grant funding cannot cover an educator salary during the 21-22 school year. Some curricula that you select may include ongoing coaching or technical assistance during the 2021-22 school year, in addition to the summer 2021 PD. However, not all curricula will provide this technical assistance.

As a reminder, the work of Part 1 will occur from approval until June 30, 2021. During this time, new districts will have 6 day-long meetings (or the equivalent: see item #11 for more information) for which you can budget for substitutes or stipends for educators. Additionally, the PD Coordinator contracted by DESE will facilitate the meetings and provide technical assistance as you develop your DLCS implementation plan and select your curricula. Part 2 will fund summer 2021 PD and teacher stipends. During the summer PD, the PD Coordinator will continue to support districts.

16. Who creates the PD for the 4-6 days? Would the district be responsible for finding and creating our own digital literacy PD, or is DESE creating the curriculum for the summer training days?
During Part 1 of the grant (spring 2021), the District will be selecting curricula from the DLCS Curriculum Guide for Massachusetts Districts. DESE will use a PD coordinator to schedule, organize, and conduct the curriculum PD during the summer of 2021. During the spring meetings covered under Part 1 of the grant, we will assist you in filling out Part 2 of the grant. Part 2 provides districts with funding for the summer 2021 PD as well as stipends for educators attending the summer 2021 PD.

17. Are public educational collaboratives eligible for this grant?
Yes, they are eligible.