



# DoDEA FY11 Grant Program

**Evaluation Technical Assistance Center (ETAC)**

*Guide for Completing the Full Application*

# Introductions

- DoDEA

**Fatimah Dozier** - Grant Compliance Specialist, DoDEA Educational Partnership Branch

- ETAC

**Kate Tindle, Deborah Lessne** - Evaluation Specialists

**Kipchumba Kitur** - Research Associate



# Presentation Agenda

- DoDEA Grant Program Background
- What is ETAC?
- Considerations in writing full application
- Application goals, strategies, and student outcomes
- Evaluation and Reporting Requirements



## Introduction to DoDEA

- Operates 195 schools which are located in 7 states, 12 countries, Guam, and Puerto Rico.
- Serves approximately 87,000 PK-12 students, the majority of whom are military dependents.
- Compares favorably in terms of student achievement with high-performing US school systems.
- Over 90% of the school-aged children of military families in the U.S. attend public schools throughout the nation. An additional 13,000 children of National Guard and Reserve families are also in the public schools.

## DoDEA Grants

FY11 Funding: \$30 million (est.)

--Minimum Award: \$100,000

--Maximum Award: \$2,500,000

Grant Period: June 2011- August 2014

Currently, DoDEA funds 77 Partnership grants awarded in two previous cohorts (FY09 and FY10).



## Purpose of Grant Program

- DoDEA's FY2011 Grant Program seeks to improve student achievement, increase educational opportunities, ensure student preparation for success in college and careers, and ease the challenges military dependent students have due to transitions and deployments.



# Applicants

LEAs vary greatly in size and military student populations. Some have:

- Tens of thousands of students with many eligible schools or only one eligible school.
- A few thousand students with one or more eligible schools.



# Grant Purposes and Strategies

## Sustain Improved Student Achievement and/or Ease Challenges due to Transitions/Deployments

### **Academically Focused Projects**

- ✓ Strengthen teacher content knowledge and skills
- ✓ Embed sustained professional development
- ✓ Integrate, where applicable, technology into curriculum

### **Support Focused Projects**

- ✓ Provide academic support for transitioning students
- ✓ Provide socio-emotional support for transitioning students

### **All Projects**

- ✓ Build capacity to sustain the program after funding ends

# ETAC: Evaluation Technical Assistance Center

- Provides technical assistance to grantees once they have received funding.
- Maintains website with evaluation resources and grantee information: <http://www.dodk12grants.org>
- Collects data from each grantee through an on-line reporting system.
- Aggregates information across projects for DoDEA.



# Considerations in writing application

- What are desired student outcomes for project: be as clear as possible and state them in measureable terms.
- How will you evaluate implementation: strategies must be fully outlined so that you can monitor progress
- How will you meet internal as well as external reporting requirements: multiple outcomes, processes, schools, and target populations quickly become burdensome to track when you need to inform local stakeholders on an ongoing basis, fulfill quarterly federal reporting requirements, evaluate outcomes and complete an annual, external evaluation of the project.



## Narrative (18-page maximum) 100 Percent

- Abstracts and Introduction
- Needs Assessment – 10%
- Project Goals – 10%
- Project Plan – 30%
- Project Evaluation – 30%
- Management – 10%
- Budget Narrative & Sustainability – 10%



## Needs Assessment

- Provide student achievement and/or support data to confirm the need(s)
- Cite lack of educational opportunities at target schools, if applicable
- Cite multiple sources, primarily quantitative data that confirms need(s)
- Explain why current or past efforts failed to resolve the need
- Discuss consequences of not addressing the need

## Project Goals and Outcomes

- Goals should be reasonable and measurable by specific instruments. A maximum of 3 goals is best.
- Outcomes are a summative measure of what has changed in terms of learning, behavior or attitude.
- Establish quantitative final and benchmark outcomes for quarterly ETAC reporting.
- Clearly identify target groups (military students, school staff, military families) for all goals.



## Measuring Outcomes

While all students may be positively impacted by the project, you must be able to disaggregate results for the military subgroup.

# Project Plan: Outlining Strategies

- Strategies are tactics for achieving goals
- No more than 3 strategies may be designed to achieve a single goal; multiple activities that represent an overall, cohesive approach may make up one strategy
  - Example strategies: Professional Development in content and/or instruction; new technology tools; after school program
- Fully explain each strategy – who, what, where, when, how
- Consider what benchmarks you will use to gauge how your strategies are being implemented – include these fidelity and process measures in the evaluation matrix discussed in the next slide

## Sample Academic Goal with 2 Strategies and Interim Outcomes

- **Goal:** Increase target middle school mathematics achievement
- **Outcome:** By 2014, increase percentage of students (military and overall) performing proficient or above to 92.9%, as measured by the X State math test. Interim: 85.7% scoring proficient or above in 2013 and 79% scoring proficient or above in 2012
  1. 100% of middle school mathematics teachers in the target schools will successfully engage in Professional Development for *First in Math* and *SMI* as measured by classroom observations and lesson plan artifacts.
  2. Implement an after school program for at-risk students identified by fall formative math assessments. All targeted students will be actively involved in the program as measured by attendance records, program teacher reports and student work artifacts.

## Sample Support Goal with 3 Strategies and Interim Outcomes

- **Goal:** Improve sense of belonging and acclimation to new school environment among military/transfer students.
- **Outcome:** By June 2014, belonging and acclimation, as measured by the “Student Climate Survey” scores will increase by 15% over fall 2011 baseline scores. Interim targets are to increase post-survey scores each year by 5%: spring 2012 increase of 5% over 2011 fall survey and spring 2013 increase of 10% over 2011 fall survey.
  1. Establish *Student to Student (S2S) Teams* evaluated by mentor recruitment, % of eligible students participating and satisfaction survey of S2S participants
  2. Implement *Video Counseling* program evaluated by participant focus group meetings, and Counselor report
  3. Implement *Academic Passport After School Connections* evaluated by number of students participating, parent satisfaction surveys, and student artifacts

# Evaluation Design Matrix

Goal: \_\_\_\_\_.

Fidelity of Implementation: List all strategies addressing this goal			
<i>Evaluation Question(s)</i>	<i>Data Collection Activities</i>	<i>Data Collection Instruments</i>	<i>Data Collection Schedule</i>
Process Evaluation: <b>List key strategy benchmarks to evaluate</b>			
<i>Evaluation Question(s)</i>	<i>Data Collection Activities</i>	<i>Data Collection Instruments</i>	<i>Data Collection Schedule</i>
Summative Evaluation: <b>List final and interim outcomes</b>			
<i>Evaluation Question(s)</i>	<i>Data Collection Activities</i>	<i>Data Collection Instruments</i>	<i>Data Collection Schedule</i>

## Evaluation & Reporting Metrics

Think about these three areas as you plan your project. You will report data on a quarterly basis for the following:

### Goals

- Limited to 3 per project
- What type of student impact is this goal going to involve:
  - Learning
  - Attitude
  - Awareness
  - Emotional Support

### Strategies

- Limited to 3 per goal  
Strategies are tactics put in place to achieve the goal (i.e. PD for teachers, new technology).
- Think about who will be involved in the strategy- can have up to three target populations per strategy (e.g., students, staff, military families, counselors).

### Student Outcome

- Interim outcomes
  - Expectations for student outcomes per year (Year 1 & 2)
  - Interim outcomes lead to the final outcomes
- Final Outcomes
  - Limited to 1 per goal
  - Reported end of Year 3



# ETAC Data Questions

ETAC needs data from each grantee to answer these questions for ALL grantees:

- **Question #1** - To what extent are grant strategies being implemented as planned?
- **Question #2** - To what extent are grant strategies engaging the target groups (i.e., military students, staff, military families, counselors)?
- **Question #3** - To what extent have military students and their families benefited from partnership projects?



## Web-Based Reporting System Preview

- ETAC must collect data to answer each funded grantee's evaluation questions (*outlined in previous slides*).
- ETAC reviews Grantee Evaluation Planning & Bi-Annual Reporting:
  - *Quarterly reports include standard federal forms and brief summaries of progress and outcome measures*
  - *Annual Evaluation Reports include more in-depth analysis of outcomes, effectiveness of strategies, project challenges and recommendations.*



# Management

- Project leaders qualifications
- Estimated time on the project
- District's evaluation personnel
- Outside evaluator

## Budget Narrative & Sustainability

- Clear overview of where grant funds are allocated
- If in kind, indicate where these funds will be allocated
- How the district intends to sustain the project after DoDEA funds are used
- Append budget table



## **Conclusion**

Preliminary proposals may have been very broad in scope, but the full application needs to be focused and streamlined. Goals, strategies and the data collection activities outlined in the application will guide your program implementation and will form the basis of your project evaluation and reports



## Links

Full application instructions available at:

<http://apply07.grants.gov/apply/opportunities/instructions/oppHE1254-FY11-001-cfda12.556-instructions.pdf>

### DoDEA

Grant Application questions: [Grants@hq.dodea.edu](mailto:Grants@hq.dodea.edu)

Website: <http://militaryk12partners.dodea.edu>

### ETAC

<http://www.dodk12grants.org>