

Questions and Answers from the DoDEA MCASP FY 2016 Applicant Technical Assistance Webinar

March 7, 2016, 12:00pm ET

Q. What is considered a high percentage of military dependent students? Are priority points awarded based on a high percentage of military dependent students in the district or at the school level?

A. Please refer to page 3 of the RFP. If you have at least one participating school with 75% or higher military dependent student enrollment, that is considered a "high percentage" and your application could qualify for 2 additional competitive preference priority points.

Q. Are there other competitive preference priorities besides first time applicant, charter school, and high rate of military dependents? Is STEM a priority?

A. No, there are only three competitive priorities this year. Please refer to page 3 of the RFP.

Q. If my district has received a grant previously, but my campus has never applied would my campus be a first-time applicant?

A. No. Please see page 3 of the RFP. Applicants qualify for these competitive preference priority points only if the LEA has never previously received a DoDEA grant award.

Q. Is each participating school required to have 15% military dependent student enrollment or can the participating schools average to 15% military dependent student enrollment? What if a school has 14.8% military dependent student enrollment?

A. There is a 15% minimum military dependent student enrollment requirement for each participating school. Please refer to pages 2 and 4 of the RFP.

Q. Can schools that are currently part of a current DoDEA grant project participate in this grant as well as long as they meet the requirement of 15% military dependent student enrollment?

A. Yes. Schools that currently participate as part of other DoDEA grant projects may be included in this application as long as they meet the 15% minimum threshold for military dependent enrollment.

Q. When will applicants be notified of grant awards?

A. We anticipate that applicants will be notified in late July or early August of 2016.

Q. What is permitted in terms of budgeting for personnel? Is it permitted to allocate 25% of the total budget to full time equivalent positions (FTE)? What is the limit that can be spent on personnel?

A. Please refer to page 5 of the RFP. Up to 25% of the total funds may be allocated to FTE positions.

Q. Can you provide a list of recommended evaluators?

A. We are not able to endorse any particular vendor. However, you are permitted to reach out to other districts near you who are current grantees and discuss their hiring process and how satisfied they are with their evaluator.

Q. Are we required to do a 5-year project? Could we do, say, a 3-year project?

A. These awards are for 5-year projects. Please keep in mind, however, that the first year is a planning year.

Q. If we have graphics that cause our narrative to extend beyond the 30-page limit, may we include them as an appendix?

A. Please refer to page 6 of the RFP for the component requirements. The project narrative may be no longer than 30 pages; however, if the graphics are a part of your needs assessment data, then yes, you may include them as an appendix.

Q. Is there a limit on the percentage of the award that can be spent on an outside evaluator?

A. Please refer to page 5 of RFP under “Evaluation.” DoDEA requires that at least 3 percent, but no more than 5 percent, of grant funds be spent on a third-party evaluator.

Q. Does the RFP address the funding from the budget that is needed for mentors/mentees?

A. Please refer to page 5 of the RFP. It indicates that up to \$2500 additional funds may be budgeted for attending regional meetings or mentor/mentee functions.

Q. Is a copy of the evaluation matrix available onto which we can type?

A. Yes, please send a request to info@dodeagrants.org for a copy of this.

Q. What is considered Administrative Cost?

A. Administrative costs such as phone, copying, postage, memberships, and office supplies are not funded through grant funds. Please refer to page 5 of the RFP under “indirect costs” for details.

Q. If you have students in Category 3 of the definition of military dependent student (parent working on federal property), can these students be evaluated separately?

A. Please refer to page 2 of the RFP for our definition. In reporting, we consider all three categories together. You are welcome to disaggregate further in your annual report.

Q. How can we obtain a copy of a successful previous MCASP grant?

A. We are not able to provide copies of successful applications. However, you are welcome to contact nearby districts with current grants for information.

Q. Where do we find the RFP?

A. The RFP is located on Grants.gov. You can search under the funding opportunity number HE1254-16-R-9999 or CFDA number 12.556. Once you have clicked open the grant opportunity, click on the “package” tab and then select “package”, input appropriate email information or click “no” option and submit. The next page will take you to the Options Page; “Option 1 – Download Instructions” contains the RFP.

Q. May we use our military state indicator data rather than Impact Aid data? At the middle and secondary level, our Impact Aid data is lower than our state verified indicator data?

A. No. For FY16 grant applications Impact Aid is the only source of data you should use.

Q. As the years go on, if a district receives three or four grants that all require at least a half-time grant director, is it DoDEA's vision that a district would hire and employ multiple part- or full-time grant directors to manage these grants? Are there provisions for schools receiving multiple grants, so that they would not have to juggle communications with possibly four or five separate grant directors?

A. It is DoDEA’s vision that a project director is at least a .5 FTE. There are no provisions for schools receiving multiple grants. The requirement for all applicants regarding the project director is listed on pages 11- 12 of the RFP and states the project director is required to be from 50-100 percent FTE. If a project director is currently full time FTE on one grant he/she will need to make a request to

DoDEA to amend the first grant in order for him/her to be at .5 FTE for two grants. The .5 FTE requirement would not allow for a project director to perform duties in excess of two grants.

- Q. If we are applying for a second grant for a school that received a grant last year, and we have a part time grant director who is already working with THAT school AND we receive a grant for that same school this year, will we need to double the pay of that director if she is managing both grants for THAT school?**
- A. If a project director is hired for two grants, he/she may split his/her time, as well as his/her pay, to be .5 FTE on each grant. If a project director is currently full time FTE on one grant he/she will need to make a request to DoDEA to amend the first grant in order for this change to occur. When the first grant is completed, the project director may increase his/her duties to full time on the second grant; however, he/she will need to request an amendment at that time.