

# Title II, Part D - Enhancing Education through Technology (EETT) Competitive Grant Online Bidder's Forum

Questions and Answers about the FY 2010  
Title II, Part D (EETT) RFP

# What is the Title II, Part D (EETT) Grant?

- ▶ The primary goal of the federal Title II, Part D (EETT) program is to improve student academic achievement through the integration of technology in schools.
- ▶ It is also designed to assist every student in becoming technologically literate by the end of eighth grade.
- ▶ Title II, Part D (EETT) encourages the effective integration of technology into daily instruction through intensive teacher training and curriculum development based upon successful research-based instructional methods.

# Who is eligible for the Title II, Part D (EETT) Grant?

- ▶ Eligible applicants are either a high-need school district or an eligible partnership, as defined below. A school district may submit or participate in only one proposal.
- ▶ A “high-need local educational agency” is a school district that is among the local educational agencies in a State with the highest numbers or percentages of children from families with incomes below the poverty line (see Appendix A).

# Who is eligible for the Title II, Part D (EETT) Grant? (cont.)

- ▶ **If your district is in Appendix A, then you must have one of the following:**
  - serves one or more schools identified for improvement or corrective action under Section 1116 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) (schools listed in the 2008 Federal column of the “Schools in Improvement Status” document located at [http://www.isbe.net/research/pdfs/school\\_improvement\\_08.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/research/pdfs/school_improvement_08.pdf)), **or**
  - has a substantial need for assistance in acquiring and using technology.

# How is the substantial need for technology proven?

- ▶ The free Interactive ISTE/CEO Forum STaR Chart will be used to identify districts that have a substantial need for assistance. After answering 20 brief questions, the STaR Chart identifies the applicant's need in the areas of hardware, connectivity, content, professional development, as well as technology integration and use.
- ▶ The StaR Chart is located at <http://www.iste.org/inhouse/starchart/index.cfm?Section=STaRChart>

# What do we do if we believe our district should be on either of the qualifying lists?

- ▶ Contact ISBE *in writing* at the email address provided under "Contact Person".
- ▶ ISBE will respond to each school district in writing.

# What is an Eligible Local Partnerships?

An “eligible local partnership” is a partnership that includes at least one high-need school district *and* at least one of the following.

- ▶ A school district that can demonstrate that teachers in its schools are effectively integrating technology and proven teaching practices into instruction, based on a review of relevant research, and that the integration results in improvement in classroom instruction and in helping students meet challenging academic standards.
- ▶ An institution of higher education that is in full compliance with the reporting requirements of Section 207(f) of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, and that has not been identified by the State as low-performing under that act.

# Eligible Local Partnerships (con)

An “eligible local partnership” is a partnership that includes at least one high-need school district *and* at least one of the following.

- ▶ A for-profit business or organization that develops, designs, manufactures, or produces technology products or services or has substantial expertise in the application of technology in instruction.
- ▶ A public or private nonprofit organization with demonstrated expertise in the application of educational technology in instruction.

# What are the amount of grant awards this year?

- ▶ It is anticipated that approximately \$4.8 million will be available to support new Title II, Part D (EETT) competitive grant awards.
- ▶ Individual grant awards will range from \$150,000 to \$300,000.

# Is a Letter of Intent required?

- ▶ Letters of intent are strongly encouraged.
- ▶ Letters should be sent by May 8, 2009.
- ▶ Letters should include district name, district contact information, and the name and contact information for potential partners.
- ▶ Letters should be e-mailed to [jbaiter@isbe.net](mailto:jbaiter@isbe.net).

# What are the time frames of the grant?

- ▶ The grant period will begin no sooner than July 1, 2009, and will extend from the execution date of the grant until June 30, 2010.

# Is there a Bidder's Conference?

- ▶ There will be an online forum about the RFP. This forum can be found at [http://www.isbe.net/curriculum/elearning/html/nclb\\_titleIID\\_tech.htm](http://www.isbe.net/curriculum/elearning/html/nclb_titleIID_tech.htm) .
- ▶ All questions and answers will remain on the website until June 8, 2009. Applicants should carefully review these responses before submitting their proposals.
- ▶ Should the conditions of this RFP change, the State Board of Education will post the changes at [http://www.isbe.net/curriculum/elearning/html/nclb\\_titleIID\\_tech.htm](http://www.isbe.net/curriculum/elearning/html/nclb_titleIID_tech.htm).

# Technology Plan Requirement

- ▶ An eligible applicant must have an approved three-year technology plan at the time the Title II, Part D (EETT) application is submitted to ISBE.
- ▶ All applicants (including school district partnership members) must present evidence of having an approved plan by submitting a copy of the technology plan approval letter as part of their application.
- ▶ The approval letter must include the expiration date of the technology plan.

# Can private schools participate in this grant?

- ▶ Consultation with private schools *must* occur during the planning process.
- ▶ Consultation must occur before the school district makes any decisions that affect the opportunities of eligible private school children, teachers, and other educational personnel.
- ▶ Consultation must continue throughout the life of the grant.
- ▶ Successful applicants will be required to submit a calendar of meetings between the district and the private school(s) along with signature sheets documenting attendance.

# Professional Development Requirement

- ▶ All Title II, Part D (EETT) grant recipients must use at least 25 percent of their funds to provide ongoing, sustained, intensive, and high-quality professional development in the integration of advanced technologies, including emerging technologies, into curricula and instruction and in using those technologies to create new learning environments.

# Are their additional restrictions on how the monies are spent?

- ▶ No more than 3% can be used for administrative costs.
- ▶ Funds must supplement and not supplant funds that are already available in either federal or state grants.

# What activities are allowable with this grant?

- ▶ Preparing one or more teachers in schools as technology leaders who will assist other teachers, and providing bonus payments to the technology leaders.
- ▶ Enhancing existing technology and acquiring new technology to support education reforms and to improve student achievement.
- ▶ Acquiring connectivity linkages, resources, and services for use by students and school personnel to improve academic achievement.
- ▶ Using technology to collect, manage, and analyze data to inform and enhance teaching and school improvement efforts.

# What activities are allowable with this grant? (cont.)

- ▶ Implementing enhanced performance measurement systems to determine the effectiveness of education technology programs funded with Title II, Part D (EETT) funds.
- ▶ Increasing accessibility to technology, particularly through public-private partnerships, with special emphasis on accessibility for high-need schools.
- ▶ Adapting or expanding applications of technology to enable teachers to increase student academic achievement, including technology literacy, through teaching practices that are based on the review of relevant research and through use of innovative distance learning strategies.

# What activities are allowable with this grant? (cont.)

- ▶ Developing, enhancing, or implementing information technology courses.
- ▶ Implementing proven and effective courses and curricula that include integrated technology and that are designed to help students reach challenging academic standards.
- ▶ Using technology to promote parental involvement and foster communication among students, parents, and teachers about curricula, assignments, and assessments.

# What standards should be used with this grant?

Illinois Learning Standards (ILS)  
<http://www.isbe.net/ils/Default.htm>

*National Educational Technology Standards (NETs)*

▶ *for Students*

(<http://cnets.iste.org/students/index.html>),

▶ *for Teachers*

([http://cnets.iste.org/teachers/t\\_stands.html](http://cnets.iste.org/teachers/t_stands.html)),

▶ *for School Administrators*

([http://cnets.iste.org/administrators/a\\_stands.html](http://cnets.iste.org/administrators/a_stands.html)).

# Student Testing

- ▶ As part of ISBE's federal reporting requirements of 8<sup>th</sup> grade literacy, a free online assessment will be used.
- ▶ Information about assessment will be released to successful participants in Fall 2009.

# What about program evaluation?

- ▶ As part of the grant's final reporting requirements, districts will need to include:
  - **Tools.** Are the multiple evaluation tools, qualitative and/or quantitative, used to determine success of activities, objectives and goals appropriate and likely to produce reliable and usable data?
  - **Achievement.** Are assessment(s) used for determining student achievement able to measure progress relative to the Illinois Learning Standards and gauge success toward improving teaching and learning?

# What about program evaluation? (cont.)

- ▶ As part of the grant's final reporting requirements, districts will need to include:
  - **Project Sustainability.** Are the project activities relative to technology integration, school leadership, and curricular and instructional changes sufficient for the school to sustain the program and continue to improve student achievement through the use of technology once Title II, Part D (EETT) funding ends?

# Is there format for the proposal?

- ▶ The proposal must be submitted as specified on pages 5-6 of RFP.
- ▶ Incomplete proposals will NOT be reviewed.
- ▶ Official ISBE forms ARE required for Cover Page, Partnership Member Information, Budget Summary and Payment Schedule/Budget Narrative, Title II, Part D (EETT) Private School Participation Form, Certification and Assurance, CIPA and GEPA Forms.

# Narrative Requirements

- ▶ The scoring rubric in Appendix B should be used when writing the narrative section.
- ▶ Limited to 7 pages.
- ▶ Each of the 12 program descriptions as well as program sustainability should be addressed.

# Priority Considerations

- ▶ As noted on page 8, districts can earn priority points for the following:
  - Up to 10 bonus points if their EETT formula funding was insufficient.
  - Up to 5 points if EETT competitive funding has NOT been previously received.
  - Up to 5 points if district has limited or no broadband connectivity as evidenced by low or mid tech scores on the STaR Chart.

# Who will read the proposals?

- ▶ Proposals will be read by impartial panel of experienced in integrating technology into school curriculum and instruction.
- ▶ Educators working within a district that has submitted a plan will NOT be allowed to participate as a reader.

# Deadline and Submission Information

- ▶ Proposals are due to ISBE no later than 4 PM on June 12, 2009.
- ▶ Proposals should be mailed to the following address:  
Kristy Harvell  
Illinois State Board of Education (C-215)  
100 North 1<sup>st</sup> Street  
Springfield, IL 62777-0001

# Deadline and Submission Information (con)

- ▶ Proposals can be hand delivered to the following locations:

Springfield Office

Information Center

1st Floor

100 North First Street

Chicago Office

Reception Area

Suite 14-300

100 West Randolph Street

# Who should be contacted for questions?

- ▶ For more information on this RFP contact Jamey Baiter at [jbaiter@isbe.net](mailto:jbaiter@isbe.net).
- ▶ All questions submitted will be responded to via the Bidder's Forum located at [http://www.isbe.net/curriculum/elearning/html/nclb\\_titleII\\_D\\_tech.htm](http://www.isbe.net/curriculum/elearning/html/nclb_titleII_D_tech.htm)
- ▶ Responses will remain on the website until June 8, 2009.