

Enhancing Education through Technology (Formula and Competitive)

Questions and Answers

Answers to the Questions will be in **blue**

Location of RFP:

Where can I find the RFP for the E2T2 grant? I can only find one with FY2008 on it.

The main link to the grant is <http://www.isbe.net/curriculum/elearning/default.htm>. The FY10 forms and attachments are located on this webpage.

RFP Due Date:

When is the due date for the competitive grant? Which RFP paperwork should we fill out?

June 12th is the due date. The information and paperwork can be found at <http://www.isbe.net/curriculum/elearning/default.htm>

Eligibility Requirements:

I am somewhat confused on the wording on the eligibility requirements to apply for the EETT grant. We are not listed in Appendix A, as a high need school, however we do have technology needs and would like to be considered to apply for the EETT grant. In taking the Star assessment, we are a mid-level needs district. Is there any avenue by which we would be eligible to apply for this grant?

To be eligible a district must be a high-need school district listed in Appendix A. Then that high-need district must either have schools in improvement status or have a substantial technology need. Since your district is not high need, then it cannot apply regardless of its need for technology.

I did not read anything about the number of schools and/or individuals that could be included in the project. Are there parameters similar to 2006?

No, the parameters are not the same as 2006. This grant proposal applies the federal law and guidance of Title II, D without adding any additional state requirements. Districts have flexibility to choose the participating schools and design a high-quality program.

"Our district is on the "high need LEA" list to apply for the grant, but does not currently have an individual school in School Improvement Status. However, our high school did not make AYP in 2008 and it fits the "low to mid-range" on the completed STAR chart.

Can we apply for funds just for the HS from EETT, or must we apply for all three school buildings?

Your district can submit a proposal for only the high school's participation. You are NOT required to apply for all buildings.

We had the grant in 2009 and plan on filing a second year proposal. We want to check if that is okay. I know it is a percentage of the first year, but I wonder if it is a percentage of the actual funded amount or a percentage of what we originally applied for.

Since grantees funded in FY09 were funded for one year only, they are eligible to apply for this new grant competition. However, please be aware this is a new and separate competition. An entirely new and complete proposal that meets all of the requirements of the FY10 RFP should be submitted for review. The FY09 award ends on June 30, 2009.

Could a school apply for the grant or should it be a district wide initiative? If a school can apply then historically are districts funded more often than schools?

Districts need to apply for the grant. The district can emphasize a particular school as part of the project.

I'm a little confused about the age/grade requirements for the submission of an EETT grant proposal. Can a district submit a proposal to serve high school students? The RFP seems to imply that funding should go to students in 8th grade or under.

The district may choose the participating schools and student levels to meet the district's needs. 8th grade participation is NOT a requirement. If 8th grade students are participants, they will need to complete the 8th grade Tech Literacy instrument listed in the RFP as a required grant activity.

Partnership Questions:

We have several small districts whose schools are on Appendix A, and who would like to work with our college. Would it be possible to write an EETT for schools in 2 districts who will form a partnership with the college?

As stated on page 1 of the RFP, the districts may partner with the college as long as one of the districts is eligible to apply and a district or other LEA member is the fiscal agent. The applicant partnership can only request a maximum of \$300,000, even if both districts are eligible to apply for the grant.

Can the ROE write and administer the grant with districts? Or does the district need to be the fiscal agent?

According to page 2 of the RFP, the ROE may write, administer, and be the fiscal agent of the grant.

If we are partnering does each district have to fully meet the criteria- I have one district that meets two criteria and two districts that I know meets one of the criteria and possible the other after doing the survey.

No, both districts do not have to meet the criteria; however, only the district(s) that is eligible may receive benefits of the services or activities (page 2 of the RFP).

As a Regional Office of Education, may we participate in more than one grant if asked by more than one District?

Yes, an ISC/ROE may be part of a partnership with several districts. Please note, however, that a district may only be part of ONE application.

I need clarification about the letter of intent. Since our district is a high-need school district, do we need to have a partner? I read it as we didn't, but I wanted to be sure

No district is required to participate in a partnership. It's an option that is allowable.

Technology Plan Requirements:

The application says we must have an "approved 3-year Technology Plan" in place in order to apply for funds. Our plan expires in June of 2010. Is that considered "in place" in order to apply?

Yes, your technology plan is approved (June 30, 2010 expiration) and will be considered "in place" for the application.

Private School Requirements:

The application calls for equitable participation of private schools and that "consultation must occur." There are no private schools at all in the boundaries of our district. How would we document that for the grant application? How would we fill out that required page of the application?

On the Private School Participation form you will just state that there are no private schools found within your boundary area. You must return the completed form in order to submit a complete application.

According to the RFP private schools are encouraged to participate, but do not need to have an approved tech plan in place?

According to the Private School Center of the US Department of Education, private schools do NOT need to submit a technology plan, nor are they required to complete

the 25% professional development. They are, however, required to submit a CIPA form if they will be purchasing equipment that can be connected to the internet.

Letter of Intent:

I am preparing to write a letter of intent. Is there a form or just do a brief statement? Does it have to be on school letterhead?

No, there is no form to submit. Notice of intent may be sent by email. A formal letter on letterhead is not required. Be certain to identify the full district name, number and contact information in the notice.

Can the letter of intent come from the ROE?

Yes, especially if the ROE will be the fiscal agent for the grant. In a partnership application, please be certain to name all participating entities.

Fiscal/Budgetary Requirements:

Are we required to submit a 3 year budget if this is a 3 year grant?

Proposals should include just the Year 1 budget. Districts will be required to submit a Continuing Application and submit annual reporting documenting successful implementation to apply for Year 2 and Year 3 continuation funding.

On page 2 of the RFP, what does it mean by pro-rated funding will be available for two additional years contingent upon a sufficient appropriation for the program in subsequent fiscal years and satisfactory performance by grantee in the preceding fiscal year?

This is a three-year grant. Each year the funding amount will be stepped down by 25%. This allows the federal government to see that districts are taking the initiative to find funding to carry on the projects so districts will sustain these educational initiatives once grant funding ends. If no funds are available from the federal government or substantially reduced in years 2 or 3, then all or some grants may not be funded for the full length of the grant period. Likewise, if a grantee fails to submit evidence that it is meeting its goals in successfully implementing the program in accordance with its approved proposal and EETT law and guidance, then that grantee also may not qualify for funding in years 2 or 3.

FY09 E2T2 competitive tech grants were funded at the 76% level due to lack of federal dollars. In light of the federal government's stimulus package and the influx of dollars into Title-IID tech funding, will the FY09 E2T2 competitive grants receive the remaining 24% of the funds that we applied for?

There will be no additional dollars for the FY09 EETT grants. The 76% funding level was based upon the large number of high-quality proposals received and the available FY09 dollars. Stimulus dollars, which should arrive in the fall, will be completely separate from this grant competition.

Are Administration Costs acceptable at a 3.8%?

No, there is a cap of 3% on administrative funds. Applicants are encouraged to consider the ISTE standards regarding educational technology use. However, the focus of Title II, D funding is on integrating technology to improve student academic achievement. Goals for the proposed program should clearly specify how the proposed activities will support and enhance implementation of the Illinois Learning Standards for the specific content areas included and foster student achievement in those areas.

Learning Standards:

I wanted to make sure I am reading things correctly, the learning standards that need to be used in the narrative are actually the ISTE standards. Should I be including Illinois Learning Standards for specific content areas?

Applicants are encouraged to consider the ISTE standards regarding educational technology use. However, the focus of Title II, D funding is on integrating technology to improve student academic achievement. Goals for the proposed program should clearly specify how the proposed activities will support and enhance implementation of the Illinois Learning Standards for the specific content areas included and foster student achievement in those areas.