

Frequently Asked Questions

(The last line of each question is underlined – all questions are in black. Answers are in blue italics.)

Is this a continuation of the previous grant?

No, this is not a continuation of the previous year. This is a new application.

My Districts tech plan expires in June 2008 but we have submitted one for peer review. Can we apply?

Yes you have a tech plan until June 30th. Please make the notation that you have a plan in for peer review (if you receive any sort of documentation such as an e-mail stating that your plan is in for review, you might want to submit a copy of it.

We are very interested in applying for the grant. Will there be anything specific we need to do for professional development piece? Will ISBE be offering anything? Or do we design our own? Also are there any basic requirements for equipping the classrooms. We have read RFP and have looked at ed.gov and have reviewed the state Title II, Part D (Goals 1,2 &3).

We heard from colleagues that received the grant in the past that there was a very prescriptive professional development training offered and classroom equipment. They said they sent staff to some kind of training and that staff then became a "trainer of trainers". We did not see that piece in the RFP but maybe we missed it.

You are designing the project that will work for your district using the guidelines from the federal guidance. ISBE will not be prescribing any particular equipment or professional development. We will monitor to insure the 25% professional development requirement is met.

We have looked at the STaR Chart survey. The first question raised a problem for us. We have a several old computers that teachers have in classrooms. Most are not connected to Internet as each classroom has only 2 connections, the teacher and a student computer.

On the question of what is the ratio of instructional computers to students, do we need to count computers over 5 years old that seem to be pretty much on their way out?

You will need to use the instruction guide PDF located at the top of the STaR Chart page when completing the quiz. The 5th page of the instruction guide shows that they are looking for number of computers connected to the Internet. If those older computers aren't connected to the Internet, they aren't counted

I was looking at the high need school districts as defined in the RFP for the technology grant.

How was this information gleaned? We have a 40% poverty rate.....

The US DOE requires that we use census data from here <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/saipe/> for this grant, not the 40% that everyone is used to. I believe the latest data that they have is from 2005. Then we have to sort by number and percentage and take the top 50% of the listings.

Our district is on the list of High-Need School Districts but only one school is in Appendix B for improvement or corrective action. Can the grant be written for the entire district or only the school listed in Appendix B?

It is a district grant – however, they need to make sure they address the high need school (the reason why they qualified).

What is the target student population for the grant? Reading the grant, it seems that priority will be given middle school focus. Is that correct?

No, there is no priority on middle schools. It's on the school that has the need. However, we needed to let everyone know that if they have 8th graders participating, they'll be expected to participate in the test.

Will we be penalized if we focus on our high schools, which are in corrective action?

No, there will be NO penalty.

Will we be penalized if we focus only on technology skills of 4-6th grade students and technology integration of 4-6th grade students?

If you have 4-6 grade schools that are on the list in Appendix B or if you are qualifying through the STaR chart, then this will be fine.

Can we purchase multi-year subscriptions with this grant? (e.g. United Streaming, Nettekker, etc?)

No, this is a one year grant. Everything that is purchased must be used within that year. Make sure you aren't supplanting anything that you are already using.

Will we be penalized if we spend the majority of funding on online resources, with related professional development?

You wouldn't be penalized, however I think readers might find it questionable.

To receive an Exemplary score, does this grant need to apply to ALL teachers and ALL schools in the district (we have 53 schools, 41,000 students, and 2500 teachers) The term ALL SCHOOLS appears consistently in the evaluation document.

All schools that are participating. If the district only has 10 schools participating, then it is expected it applies to all 10 schools.