

**Illinois Math Science Partnership**  
**FY2010 RFP**

**Online Forum**

**All questions concerning the IMSP FY10 RFP must be submitted via e-mail. Changes in the RFP, questions and answers will be posted to the forum and remain until May 1, 2009. Questions may require review by ISBE Curriculum and Instruction Administration as well as Legal Division prior to posting.**

**Contact Person:** For more information on this RFP, contact Gil Downey by email at [gdowney@isbe.net](mailto:gdowney@isbe.net).

Question: What type of project may be proposed as a part of this RFP?

**Answer: As stated on page 3 of the RFP: The Illinois Mathematics and Science Partnership (IMSP) program will authorize specialized, research-based, standards-led graduate programs leading to a master's degree to enable elementary and secondary mathematics and/or science teachers in high-need LEAs to meet the qualifications for applicable teaching endorsements in science and/or mathematics.**

Question: What tense/perspective should we be writing with? In other words, should we write it sort of as if it's a year ago and we're laying out a 3 year program, or should we be explicit about this being to finish the programs, including citing what we've already done?

**Answer: Your proposal should provide a detailed description of the project. Include what successes with the IMSP have occurred and what grant activities will be added or changed in order to make the project stronger.**

Question: For FY12, can we start a partially funded new cohort? Alternatively, can we only do evaluation activities (and only receive the \$50k)?

**Answer: This is a decision that your partnership will need to make and include in your proposal for the proposal readers to evaluate during the review process. You need to determine the best course of action in your proposal to best utilize federal funds in terms of sustainability and/or evaluation. Please be aware no determination has been made regarding the release of additional Request for Proposals for graduate programs.**

Question: We will likely not receive full Provostian approval of the Earth/Space Science until some time in early May; we are going through the approval process now, but it won't likely be complete until May. Can we still submit the Earth and Space Science contingent on final approval in Loyola?

*Reference From the RFP:*

*Each applicant must develop a proposal for a graduate teaching program that meets institutional and state requirements for teacher preparation programs, and federal requirements for IMSP. The proposal must integrate the content knowledge of mathematics and science with the corresponding*

*appropriate and innovative pedagogical content knowledge. It must interweave leadership skills and educational research foundations with classroom applications. **In order to receive an IMSP grant, the applicant must present evidence in its proposal that the IHE where the program will be implemented has approved the proposed project.** (NOTE: Approval of the proposal for funding will constitute the required approval by ISBE.)*

**Answer:** You may submit a proposal. If your proposal is selected as one of the top proposals, you will need to provide evidence of approval prior to the announcement of the winning proposals which is scheduled for May 15, 2009. If IHE approval does not occur by the announcement date, your approval will not be funded. The proposal with the next highest points with institutional approval will be awarded.

**Question:** What if we miss the deadline for submitting a Letter of Intent. Are we still able to submit a proposal?

**Answer:** Yes you are still able to submit a proposal. The LOI is an informational document for the IMSP State Coordinator. Technically, it is not a legally binding document. Also, there was a revision needed with the Attachment 11, the LOI in order for the form to match the information described in the RFP. The revised forms are available on the ISBE Website. If you have not submitted a LOI, please fill one out and send it by fax or as an attached document. This document does not require original signatures as does the other necessary forms. Please follow the requirements for submission of forms that accompany your proposal.

**Question:** May a proposal only request funds for two years to complete a program and conduct final evaluation activities and still be considered for funding?

**Answer:** Yes, the Department of Education at the recent MSP Regional Conference in Chicago recommended that ISBE scrutinize carefully projects which propose a third year of funding which only supports sustainability activities for the following reasons:

- 1. There will be limited opportunity to collect student and teacher impact data caused by third year project activities during “sustainability” funding.**
- 2. The Illinois projects that began in FY07 and FY08 will graduate their cohorts on relatively similar schedules. An IMSP RFP may then be released for a next cycle of projects to support new cohorts and refined projects.**

**Question:** Submitted by an existing project PI writing a proposal to finish an existing cohort:

1. The RFP is written as if the program has not started.
2. Do we do write as if we have not started or speak to what we have done in response to the questions and what we will do as we move forward?

**Answer:** Write the proposal including all of the great things that your project has accomplished to date along with all of the expectations for the completion and sustainability of the IMSP project. The use of lessons learned will add depth to your proposal.