



Illinois State Board of Education

FY20 Truants' Alternative and Optional Education Program (TAOEP) Professional Development Request for Proposals (RFP)

Technical Assistance Webinar


August 22, 2019

GRANTS

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)/REQUEST FOR APPLICATION (RFA) AND AWARDS

The chart below lists the title of each RFP and RFA currently available in the order of the proposal due date. To see the main body of the RFP or RFA, click on the title.

All NOFO/RFPs released on or after May 1, 2018 are subject to the updated [Merit Based Review policy](#)  .

Grant Title	Proposal / Application Due Date	Eligible Applicants	Contact	Award Information
Fiscal Year 2020 Truants' Alternative and Optional Education Program (TAOEP) Professional Development	10/01/2019 at 4:00 PM	Public school districts, Regional Offices of Education, community college districts, public university laboratory schools approved by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), charter schools, and area vocational centers are eligible to apply.	Brian Houser at (217) 782-5270 or bhouser@isbe.net	



Eligible Applicants

Eligible entities (approved by ISBE) include:

- Public school districts
- Regional Offices of Education
- Community college districts
- State authorized charter schools
- Area vocational centers
- Public university laboratory schools



Grant Award/Funding

- Grant funding will not exceed \$200,000
- Single award
- Competitive grant
- No matching required for this grant

Successful RFP applicant may reapply via continuing application for up to two additional years (i.e., FY2021 and FY2022) upon a sufficient appropriation and satisfactory performance in each preceding grant year.

Grant Period

For FY2020, the grant period will begin no sooner than October 1, 2019 and extend from execution date of the grant until August 31, 2020



Application Deadline

Submission Date:

- Proposals can be submitted electronically through the ISBE Attachment Manager, mailed, or hand-delivered **no later than 4 p.m. on October 1, 2019**. Directions for each submission method are found in the RFP.
- *Late proposals will not be accepted*



State of Illinois Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA)

For this competitive RFP application, GATA requirements not required for submission. ***If awarded grant, the following must be completed prior to the final approval!***

Illinois GATA Web Portal

<https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/GATA/grantee/pages/default.aspx>

Includes completion of:

- Grantee Registration
- Grantee Pre-qualification
- Fiscal and Administrative Risk Assessment (ICQ) through GATA Web Portal
- Completion of the FY20 Organizational Risk Assessment in the ISBE Web Application Security (IWAS) system

Purpose

The program is designed to provide a digital curriculum for enrolled TAOEP students; professional development for program staff; technical assistance for program implementation and use of the digital curriculum; electronic statewide network services, including a program website and listserv; and program evaluation services.

Statewide program serving TAOEP grantees.



Program Description

Funds will be used to provide online curriculum to students participating in TAOEP and for professional development activities for staff involved in TAOEP.



Program Background

Section 5/2-3.66 of the School Code (105 ILCS 5/2-3.66) authorizes ISBE to provide grants for the establishment of TAOEP. State funds have been appropriated by the General Assembly since 1986 to provide grants to eligible entities for the purpose of establishing dropout prevention programs.

ISBE awarded 74 TAOEP grants serving more than 26,000 students statewide in FY 2019.

Historically, these services to the grantees have included the provision of a digital curriculum for enrolled students; professional development for program staff; technical assistance for program implementation and use of the digital curriculum, electronic statewide network services, including a program website and listserv, and program evaluation services.

The successful applicant is responsible for and must address each of the required objectives of the grant to support the TAOEP grantees.



Program Background

Programs funded under this grant can only serve students identified as one of the following:

- A. a **truant**, as defined in Section 26-2a of the School Code [105 ILCS 5/26-2a] as a child subject to compulsory school attendance and who is absent without valid cause from such attendance for more than 1% but less than 5% of the past 180 school days;
- B. a **chronic or habitual truant**, as defined in Section 26-2a of the School Code as a child subject to compulsory school attendance and who is absent without valid cause from such attendance for 5% or more of the previous 180 regular attendance days;



Program Background

- c. a **dropout**, as defined in Section 26-2a of the School Code as any child enrolled in grades 9 through 12 whose name has been removed from the district enrollment roster for any reason other than the student's death, extended illness, removal for medical non-compliance, expulsion, aging out, graduation, or completion of a program of studies and who has not transferred to another public or private school and is not known to be home-schooled by his or her parents or guardians or continuing school in another country



Program Background

- D. a **potential dropout**, which is any student subject to compulsory attendance as defined in Article 26 of the School Code [105 ILCS 5/Art. 26] and whose school absences or pattern of school attendance impedes the student's learning or contributes to the student's failure to meet State and/or district learning standards. Attendance problems may include chronic truancy, truancy, selective absences, excessive absences, or a pattern of absences or tardiness. (See Section 205.20(b)(4) of rules governing Truants' Alternative and Optional Education Programs at: <https://www.isbe.net/Documents/205ARK.pdf>)



ISBE Goals

The Truants' Alternative and Optional Education Program supports the **Illinois State Board of Education goals**.

Every child in each public school system in the State of Illinois deserves to attend a system wherein...

- *Ninety percent or more of students graduate from high school ready for college and career.*
- *All students are supported by highly prepared and effective teachers and school leaders.*
- *Every school offers a safe and healthy learning environment for all students.*



Program Objectives and Activities

- **Project coordination** – Enhance the work of the TAOEP grant and ISBE personnel.
- **Staff requirements** – Have qualified and experienced staff to provide professional development opportunities, negotiate contracts, and provide technical assistance.
- **Digital curriculum** – Negotiate and execute a contract on an annual basis in order to provide a digital curriculum for TAOEP students to use.
- **Professional development** – Provide technical assistance and professional development to TAOEP personnel in the more than 70 programs funded each year.
- **Evaluation** – Conduct professional development based upon a needs assessment, report the use of digital curriculum, and complete mid-year and end-of-year reports regarding grant activities.



Performance Measures

Online curriculum will be available for all students enrolled in TAOEP.

Professional development activities will be available to all TAOEP staff.



Targets

- Project coordination and communication are occurring on a regular basis with ISBE personnel.
- Qualified and experienced staff are providing professional development opportunities and technical assistance.
- Professional development activities for TAOEP grantees are in progress or completed.

Targets

- Digital curriculum is provided to TAOEP students with quarterly usage data being reported.
- An evaluation of professional development opportunities and needs assessment of TAOEP programs are in progress or completed.



Performance Standards

The applicant will demonstrate that one or more of the following objectives are in progress:

- A minimum of 1500 online curriculum licenses will be purchased.
- At least 50% of TAOEP students will have access to online curriculum.
- At least 50% of TAOEP staff will have access to professional development activities.

Deliverables and Milestones

- Mid-year and end-of-year reports are required for the current year's program.
- These reports will document the services provided and describe the degree to which the grantee achieves its stated objectives. Reports will be submitted in a Word document via e-mail to the ISBE TAOEP grant consultant.



Reporting Requirements

ISBE Web Application Security (IWAS) System

1. Electronic Expenditure Reporting must be completed at a minimum quarterly via IWAS system (20 days after quarter to complete).
2. Grant Periodic Reporting should be completed at a minimum quarterly via the IWAS system (30 days after quarter to complete)
3. Mid-year report is due January 31, 2020
4. End-of-year report is due 30 days after the end of grant period

Application Review

Review and Selection Process:

The selection of the grantees will be based upon the overall quality of the application. The scoring is based upon the following criteria:

- **Need** is defined as the identification of stakeholders, facts, and evidence that demonstrate the proposal supports the grant program purpose. There is sufficient need for the program/services, as evidenced by the number or proportion of students identified as eligible for program services;
- **Capacity** is defined as the ability of an entity to execute the grant project according to the project requirements;
- **Quality** is defined as the totality of features and characteristics of a service, project, or product that indicate its ability to satisfy the requirements of the grant program;

Application Review

- **Criteria and indicators** for identifying students who are eligible for the program are clearly established and likely to target those students most in need of services.
- **Program objectives and activities** are well-defined, linked to identified needs, and likely to lead to improved outcomes for the students served in the program.
- The program is **cost-effective** as evidenced by the cost of proposed services in relation to the numbers to be served and the services to be provided.
- The **evaluation strategies** will effectively gauge the success of the program and yield sufficient data that can be used to improve the program. The proposal demonstrates strategies, other than those routinely offered by the regular school program that will be effective in decreasing the dropout rate and increasing school attendance.



Criteria

These overall criteria are built into the criteria below. The points for each criterion section as well as the individual criteria are included.

Selection criteria and point values are as follows:

Not Provided	Very Limited	Somewhat Limited	Moderate	Strong	Very Strong
0	1	2	3	4	5
Proposal requirements are absent.	Proposal provides very few details to meet the project outcomes.	Proposal is unclear and lacks enough evidence to meet project outcomes.	Proposal provides moderate detail and conveys potential to meet project outcomes.	Proposal provides good detail and strong evidence to meet project outcomes.	Proposal exceeds expectations and provides a solid plan to meet project outcomes.

Scoring Rubric

Section 1: Project Need 20 Points	Possible Points
Proposal clearly shows how online curriculum can effectively provide credit recovery and reduce truancy / dropout rates.	5
Proposal clearly states the number of potential students that would utilize the online curriculum.	5
Proposal includes statistical data that supports the need for quality digital curriculum.	5
Proposal clearly shows the need for professional development for teachers, administrators, and staff	5
Section 1 Total	20
Section 2: Criteria and Indicators for Identification 20 Points	Possible Points
Expectations for stakeholder involvement and communication, including interaction with ISBE, are clearly stated in the proposal.	5
Proposal clearly establishes a process to provide online curriculum services for truants, chronic truants, potential dropouts, and/or dropouts.	5
Proposal clearly defines the process to inform TAOEP grantees about developing an Individual Optional Education Program and providing effective services to students.	5
Proposal clearly identifies and selects online curriculum services appropriate for grantees and students.	5
Section 2 Total	20



Scoring Rubric

Section 3: Program Objectives and Activities 20 Points	Possible Points
Proposal demonstrates the ability to provide professional development activities in relation to truancy and dropout prevention	5
Objectives clearly show experience with digital online curriculum management.	5
Proposal identifies qualified and experienced staff to execute objectives.	5
Objectives are realistic and attainable based upon program resources and timeline.	5
Section 3 Total	20
Section 4: Strategies 10 Points	Possible Points
Strategies described in proposal are research/evidence based	5
Effective strategies to coordinate activities with ISBE, grantees, and stakeholders are provided in proposal.	5
Section 4 Total	10



Scoring Rubric

Section 5: Evaluation 10 Points	Possible Points
The type of assessment tool(s) to evaluate strategies are identified.	5
Proposal demonstrates how collection of data will improve program effectiveness and efficiency.	5
Section 5 Total	10
Section 6: Cost-Effectiveness 20 Points	Possible Points
Proposal clearly provides a cost analysis breakdown.	5
Staffing costs are adequate and reasonable based on proposal objectives and budget.	5
Applicant clearly shows experience negotiating contracts with educational vendors in a cost-effective manner.	5
Overall, proposal clearly demonstrates the applicant can successfully implement the program and provide effective services with requested funding.	5
Section 6 Total	20



Completing grant application

- Follow grant instructions located on forms that coincide with RFP.
- Address all objectives in the RFP.
- Complete the budget forms with available allocation.
- Review RFP including scoring rubric to insure all information has been provided.
- Check for all required signatures on forms.
- Submit to ISBE before due date.



Questions

Contact Information

Brian Houser

bhouser@isbe.net

This presentation will be posted on the ISBE – TAOEP website:

<https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Special-Education-Truants-Alternative-and-Optional-Education-Program.aspx>

