

## **FY27 Truants' Alternative and Optional Education Program (TAOEP) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)**

### **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

#### **As a Program Administrator, how do I get access to the NOFO application in IWAS?**

- A. Access to the grant application is commonly granted by the District Administrator through IWAS. However, if the District Administrator does not have access to the grant application in IWAS, he/she must sign up for the TAOEP NOFO. If there are still access issues, please contact ISBE IT Help Desk at 217-558-3600 for assistance. Please have your RCDT code available when contacting ISBE.

#### **Is it allowable for an entity, such as a school district, to submit more than one proposal?**

- A. No, only one proposal can be submitted per entity. See [Section 205](#) of the 23 Ill. Admin. Code for the full set of rules regarding eligible applicants.

#### **If a Regional Office of Education (ROE) or Intermediate Service Center (ISC) applies or currently has a TAOEP grant and another eligible entity within the region wants to complete an application, what is required to allow both entities to have a TAOEP program?**

- A. Two eligible entities can separately apply for TAOEP programs that propose to serve the same population of students if the proposed services are not duplicative in nature. In that case, both entities will need to provide a Service Agreement in the upload section of both grant applications. The Service Agreement must outline the services being provided by each entity.

#### **On the Districts Served page in the NOFO, what is the Service Agreement Form?**

- A. The Service Agreement must be completed by all entities applying for the TAOEP NOFO. This includes all districts the entity may be serving in the grant application. The eligible entity must use the service agreement form and acquire signatures from all participating districts. If original signatures cannot be obtained, electronic signatures will be accepted. This document will be uploaded into the initial grant application to insure no duplication of services between participating entities. The document link can be found in the grant application or the following link: <https://www.isbe.net/Documents/FY27-TAOEP-Service-Agree-Form.pdf>

**Can an entity create a proposal for both truancy intervention services and an optional education program?**

- A. Yes, an entity can submit a proposal for both truancy intervention and an optional education program.

**On the Projected Sites page, do I need to complete if providing truancy intervention services to school districts?**

- A. Yes, please identify all schools that are receiving services in your proposal.

**On the Projected Sites page, when and why would I check the box for claiming students for EBF?**

- A. The box for claiming students may be checked if students are attending a serving site for an optional education program full-time. Check the box even if only one student will be claimed out of the total number entered.

**Why are the GATA pages missing from the NOFO application?**

- A. The GATA pages will not be included in the NOFO proposals. After the Merit Based Review Process and application scoring, entities will be selected for grant awards. The selected grantees will then complete all GATA requirements and GATA pages uploaded into their applications.

**On the Budget Detail page, how do I know what function and object coding to use?**

- A. Click on the instructions link located near the upper right of the page. This link will provide information on how to complete the budget detail. For additional grant-related information, please use this link from our Funding and Disbursements Department: [State and Federal Grant Administration Policy, Fiscal Requirements, and Procedures](#).

**On the Projected Sites Page, there is a section to enter the RCDTS code for the alternative school. For regional programs, do we need to include the additional school site code?**

- A. Yes, please include the entire code for an optional education program. For a provider operating truancy intervention/prevention services only and not an optional education program, this is not necessary.  
As an example, the ROE #2 will have a RCDTS code of 02-000-0000-00-9201 for the alternative school. New regional program sites will have to request a school site code through a process with the Entity Profile System (EPS). Please contact your grant consultant for more information.

### **What is the difference between performance measures and performance standards?**

- A. Performance standards are the minimum performance requirements of the program and performance measures are the ideal objectives to be met or exceeded over the duration of the grant.

### **Where can I find Illinois School Report Card data and percent adequacy within Evidence-Based Funding (EBF)?**

- A. The Illinois School Report Card information can be found here:  
<https://www.isbe.net/ilreportcard>.

Steps to find data for the Districts to be Served page in the grant:

- Click on 2025 Report Card Public Data Set
- Download the data set
- Select the “General” tab in spreadsheet
- Search for your District
- Use columns CQ (%CT), and CS (% DO)
- For # Chronic Truant students, multiple column P (# Student Enrollment) by column CQ (%CT).
- Input numbers on Districts to be Served page

- A. The percent adequacy for Evidence-Based Funding can be found here:  
<https://www.isbe.net/Pages/ebfdistribution.aspx> under Reports-EBF Distribution Quick Facts.

### **Why are some District numbers redacted on the Illinois School Report Card?**

- A. For any metric where the count is less than or equal to 9, then no data will be displayed for that metric, regardless of whether the data is displayed as a count or percentage. Please see Data Redaction in the Public Business Rules of the Illinois Report Card Metrics document: <https://www.isbe.net/Documents/Public-Business-Rules-2024-Report-Card-Metrics.pdf>