



Illinois State Board of Education

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James T. Meeks
Chairman

Tony Smith, Ph.D.
State Superintendent of Education

May 30, 2018

Charm L. Smith
Office of Elementary and Secondary Education
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue SW, #3E235
Washington, DC 20202-6400

Subject: ILLINOIS TYDINGS WAIVER REQUEST FOR MATH SCIENCE PARTNERSHIP FUNDS

Dear Ms. Smith:

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) is formally requesting a waiver of section 421(b) of the General Education Provisions Act, also known as the “Tydings Amendment,” as it affects the authority of ISBE and its sub recipients to obligate Math and Science Partnership (MSP) funds in fiscal year 2019 after the September 30, 2018, deadline. Specifically, ISBE is requesting authority to waive the period of availability of MSP funds granted in FY 2016 under section Title II, Part B of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 program.

CFDA NUMBER	PROGRAM	GRANT AWARD NUMBER	UNOBLIGATED FUNDS REMAINING	EXTENSION REQUEST
84.366B	Title II, Part B Mathematics and Science Partnerships	S366B1200014	\$1,679,000.00 (Includes admin.)	10/01/2018 09/30/2019

Approval of the waiver request will enable Illinois to continue to focus on:

- Increasing teachers’ content knowledge in applied mathematics in the areas of STEM, statistics, and technical math.
- Improving teachers’ instructional practices and pedagogical skills in applied mathematics through the use of highly contextualized and authentic problems.

PROJECT PLAN

- The award will go to a single entity that can demonstrate strengths in developing and facilitating engaging professional learning to secondary teachers using content-rich, aligned, and targeted applied mathematics learning activities through a variety of platforms and has extensive experience facilitating learning and teaching applied mathematics aligned in the areas of STEM, statistics, and technical mathematics.

- The plan is projected to increase student achievement in math applications and problem solving, specifically, in current high-demand areas of STEM, statistics, and technical math. Concurrently, the project is aimed at improving postsecondary and career opportunities for students, such as increasing college completion rates, and preparing students to enter skill-based careers upon graduation.

Timeline

May 2018 Tydings waiver request to U.S. Department of Education

May/June 2018 Compose Request for Proposals (RFP) at state level, obtain approvals

July 2018 Release RFP

Sept. 2018 Award RFP

Oct. 2018 Grantee begins to execute scope of work (estimated 6-12 months)

Sept. 2019 Grant project concludes/preparation of evaluation

ISBE currently has 11 MSP grantees concluding programming on Aug. 31, 2018.

ISBE assures it will provide notice and information regarding this waiver request to the public in its customary fashion, by posting it on the ISBE website at <https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Waivers.aspx>, and by publicizing the waiver request in the Superintendent's Weekly Newsletter on June 5 and June 12. Any comments received will be forwarded to the Department.

ISBE further assures the grantee will be held accountable under the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA) and through state evaluation and monitoring procedures.

Please feel free to contact Dr. Jason Helfer, Deputy Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, at jhelfer@isbe.net or Marci Johnson, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, at marjohns@isbe.net. They also can be reached at (217) 524-4832.

Very truly yours,



Jason Helfer, Ph.D.
Deputy Superintendent, Center for Teaching and Learning
Illinois State Board of Education