

**Arts and Foreign Language Assistance Grant
Webinar – Monday, October 19, 2015
Questions and Answers**

Q – Budget Breakdown (Attachment 8) - How much detail is needed? For example, if purchasing books for professional/teacher reference or for classroom use by students, is a list of specific publications with cost needed? Should the applicant include these as an attachment?

A – If purchasing books or other publications, list the name, author, and cost on Attachment 8 – Budget Breakdown Summary. In the Expenditure Description and Itemization column, list the name, author, and cost/book. In the Supplies and Materials (Object Code 400) column, enter the total cost for that selection. All information should be provided on the attachment forms. No additional attachments should be included.

Q – If a program is limited or in need of instructors and recruitment is a need, can this be addressed?

A – With so many districts facing staff reductions, this grant may be used to retain current teachers; you do not necessarily need to hire new educators, although you may. Please remember that the ultimate goal is sustainability after the life of the grant, so you will be asked to demonstrate a plan to self-fund the salaries and benefits of your teachers after the cycle of the grant is complete.

Q – When we speak about alignment with arts standards, is it acceptable for us to align with National Core Arts Standards?

A – The benefits of arts education are well-documented and have been acknowledged by the state of Illinois. Section 27-1 of the School Code (105 ILCS 5/27-1) identifies fine arts as one of the fundamental areas of learning and requires all school districts to “give priority in the allocation of resources, including funds, time allocation, personnel, and facilities, to fulfilling the primary purpose of schooling.” Districts are required to establish learning objectives consistent with the Illinois Learning Standards for Fine Arts (http://www.isbe.net/ils/fine_arts/standards.htm) and to develop appropriate testing and assessment systems to determine the degree to which students are achieving the objectives. Also, 23 Illinois Administrative Code 1.430 and 1.440 require that each school district offers in all elementary and secondary schools a comprehensive curriculum that includes fine arts (<http://www.isbe.net/rules/archive/pdfs/oneark.pdf>).

The *Illinois Learning Standards for Fine Arts* were developed using the National Standards for Arts Education, 1985 State Goals for Fine Arts, various other national and state resources, and local standards contributed by team members. The national core arts standards are a process that guides educators in providing a unified quality arts education for students in Pre-K through high school. You may align with the National Core Arts Standards, but you **must** also indicate how your program is aligned to the *Illinois Learning Standards for Fine Arts*. Please note, this is a clarification from the webinar.

Q – When will this presentation be posted?

A – This webinar presentation, the PowerPoint, and the Questions and Answers document will be posted by Friday, Oct. 23, 2015.

Q – For budget attachment 7(Budget Summary and Payment Schedule) -- is this for IAC \$ only?

A – The Budget Summary and Payment Schedule (Attachment 7) is for the proposed FY2016 budget. Use this form to summarize your expenses from the Budget Summary Breakdown (Attachment 8) and request your schedule of payments for each month. The Budget Summary and Payment Schedule (attachment 7) does not include any of the funds from the Match requirement.

Q – Can we contact you if we have additional questions?

A – Please contact Linda King at the Illinois State Board of Education for additional questions. You may e-mail her at lking@isbe.net or call her at (217) 524-4832.