

Illinois Mathematics and Science Partnerships (IMSP): Illinois Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Network (I-STEM Network) FY 2015 Request for Proposals

Frequently Asked Questions

With Responses

Q. Do the teacher participants have to be employed by one of the two LEAs?

A. Each high-needs LEA partner must involve at least three (3) of their teachers as participants. Additionally, all participants from LEAs other than the high-need partnership LEA must have district approval that includes the district commitment to follow all grant requirements.

Q. Please further define synchronous does this mean each area will hold the summer workshop during the same two weeks?

A. That is the intent. However, the dates and structure of the dates may vary between science and math Area Partnerships.

Q. Should K-8 and 9-12 sessions be separate sessions in the summer or combined as a large group (SAP)?

A. They can be combined but will still require 2 ATL, one for K-8 and one for 9-12.

Q. Is there any way to find out if an IHE/ BIN has showed interest in this program but is needing a ROE partner?

A. Please contact Tara Bell if you have specific questions related to the RFP at tbell@isbe.net or (217)524-4832.

Q. In CPS Area Partnerships, can the AP apply for both an MAP AND a SAP or only one either or?

A. At least one (1) MAP and one (1) SAP will serve CPS exclusively. However, additional APs may be awarded in any Area (including CPS) based on the quality of the proposals.

Q. Who is the I-STEM Network Lead Partnership?

A. Bureau/Henry/Stark ROE, Kewanee School District, Illinois Department of Transportation and Illinois State University.

Q. How strict is the 50 mile distance restriction on a second LEA?

A. As close to 50 miles as possible as the intent is to engage LEAs from across the Area.

- Q. Are you expecting 40 participants per year, or over the 3 year grant period?**
- A. Minimum 40 per year per Area Partnership for funding.
- Q. Do additional LEAs also need to be high needs LEAs?**
- A. All participants from LEAs other than the high-need partnership LEA must have district approval that includes the district commitment to follow all grant requirements.
- Q. The BIN must also be located in the area...does this mean some presences, or headquarters, or...? I assume this means you can't use a BIN Partner in the neighboring state even if it's close to the area.**
- A. The I-STEM Network will utilize the Areas designated by ISBE and the ROEs/ISCs. As a result, all entities represented in the partnership must be located within the same Area.
- Q. Please explain why the amount of grants (\$250,000) is the same when the cost for training is significantly different.**
- A. ISBE divided the funds equally amongst math and science grants.
- Q. Do the proposals need to include control group funds?**
- A. The expectation for evaluation in the I-STEM Network Area Partnerships is compliance with the evaluation requirements determined by the Lead Partnership and successful submission of the Annual Performance Report (APR).
- Q. Can the Data Coordinator be a qualified evaluation consultant?**
- A. It is not necessary that the Data Coordinator have an extensive background in evaluation; however, some experience with statistics and project management is encouraged.
- Q. Can that consultant be shared among different projects?**
- A. Yes, since it is listed as up to .50 full-time equivalents (FTE) in the RFP.
- Q. Will we need to budget for ATLs in our budget or is that the responsibility of the lead partner?**
- A. The ATL is covered as a deliverable of the Lead Partnership RFP.
- Q. Who's on the I-STEM Network Steering Committee?**
- A. This has not yet been determined. It is a joint decision between the I-STEM Network Lead Partnership and ISBE.
- Q. Who sends the proposal, the ROE, IHE, LEA, nonprofit/profit organization?**
- A. The Area Partnership as a whole.

Q. What about other science content besides Physical Science?

- A. There will be opportunities for teachers to work with other subject matter and adapt both their current curriculum as well as the ISBE Model Science Resources during summer workshops and follow up institute days.

Q. Why are entities limited to submitting only one MAP and one SAP proposal? Could this be changed?

- A. This is what is listed in the RFP. It cannot be changed.

Q. IHE-per page 19 of the RFP, the suggested BIN should have a statewide presence. Please clarify what is meant of "statewide presence."

- A. Located in Illinois.

Q. Do you expect or require that the Project management position for example reside at the LEA?

- A. This is for the Area Partnerships considering proposing to decide.

Q. What do you see as the role of the IHE?

- A. MSP federal legislation requires membership in the partnership of faculty from an engineering, mathematics, or science department of an IHE. The I-STEM Network Area Partnership may also include multiple IHEs, including schools of education.

The IHE partner(s) is expected to bring a high level of disciplinary and pedagogical content expertise, research, and knowledge of best practices to the partnership. In order to meet the IHE partnership federal requirement, faculty from an engineering, mathematics, or science department must be included. Additionally, faculty from schools of education should also play a prominent role in the planning and delivery of I-STEM resources and support. Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) faculty from community colleges can be included in the partnership as well. Along with the BIN and for-profit partner(s), IHEs will play an important role in providing access to scientists, mathematicians, STEM faculty, and their sophisticated facilities and equipment.

Q. What do you see as the role of the ROE/ISC?

- A. Managing the I-STEM Network Area Partnership budgets and expenditure reports will be a critical task assigned to the ROE/ISC. Thorough knowledge of federal grant rules and procedures is imperative, along with demonstrating statewide capacity, accuracy, and long-term stability in fiscal management.

Q. Are ATL's considered the instructors? Does each MAP have to provide additional trainers and pay instructor training costs?

- A. Each MAP will identify two Intel Course instructors. While it is not required that their names be identified during the proposal process, it is recommended.

Q. Will you be providing a sample budget that shows how the training costs should be allocated?

A. Intel and NGSX provided a sample budget in the webinar and it can be viewed in the webinar slides that are posted on the ISBE website.

Q. Has the external statewide evaluator been identified?

A. Yes. Dr. Laura Barwegen, Associate Professor at Wheaton College.

Q. Since we will not know about award until May, when would it be appropriate to plan institute? Later in June? July? Do institutes need to be synchronous across the state?

A. The Lead Partnership, ISBE and the I-STEM Steering Committee will be working to plan the summer institutes throughout the course of this RFP such that greater detail can be shared once the Area Partnerships are awarded. The intent is for the SAP institutes to be synchronous and the MAP institutes to be synchronous allowing for greater collaboration, sharing of resources and access to experts regardless of geographic location.

Q. When will we know who are the ATLs?

A. The number and location of ATL is related to the number and location of the AP. Announcements about ATL will be made shortly after awarding SAP and MAP proposals.

Q. Will we develop focus and agendas for follow-up sessions or will this already be developed by ATLs and Lead Partner?

A. Area Partnerships will have an opportunity to share their feedback with the I-STEM Network Steering Committee, the Lead Partnership, and ISBE.

Q. Does NGSX support role including support during Summer Institute only or also Institute Days and/or other support during the school year?

A. Generally, most follow up institutes will be co-facilitated by NGSX and Intel Math experts and the ATL.

Q. When will we be able to see the sort of training goals for the ATLs?

A. The requirements for the ATL were established in the Lead Partnership RFP. They are:

Establish and operate mathematics and science institutes, including follow-up training, for elementary and secondary school mathematics teachers that shall:

- Relate directly to the curriculum and academic areas in which the teacher provides instruction, and focus only secondarily on pedagogy,
- Enhance the ability of the teacher to understand and use the content standards for mathematics and science, and to select appropriate curricula; and
- Train teachers to use curricula that are: based on scientific research, aligned with state academic content standards, and object-centered, experiment-oriented and concept and content based.

Q. Are all ROEs/ISCs eligible to write grant. Are some ROEs/ISCs restricted if they are fiscal agents for other projects?

A. The fiscal agent for the I-STEM Network Lead Partnership is not eligible to be a fiscal agent for an AP. A partnership proposing to serve Chicago Public Schools (CPS) exclusively does not need an ROE/ISC partner, and as a result, can select another fiscal agent. The awarded partnership's fiscal agent must agree to collaborate with the Statewide System of Support ROE/ISC Fiscal Agent in their respective Area throughout the grant period. A listing of those entities can be found at http://www.isbe.net/sos/htmls/state_sys_support.htm.

Q. Will we have access to Lead Partner vision or RFP to make certain our area proposal matches the components and evaluation pieces from the state lead partner?

A. The expectation for evaluation in the I-STEM Network Area Partnerships is compliance with the evaluation requirements determined by the Lead Partnership and successful submission of the Annual Performance Report (APR). More information about this Lead Partnership evaluation plan and APR follows:

The I-STEM Network Lead Partnership will design a plan for the evaluation of the statewide I-STEM Network Program that measures the implementation and impact of the goals of the I-STEM Network Program. The evaluation plan will include an experimental or quasi-experimental design conducted by an external evaluator under subcontract to the successful IMSP I-STEM Lead Partnership fiscal agent.

Q. Intel Math-I am unclear about who the instructors will be. Is the AP supposed to identify and train or will they be provide the ISTEM Network Lead Partnership and/or other?

A. Each MAP will identify two Intel Course instructors. While it is not required that their names be identified during the proposal process, it is recommended. Please contact Aubrey Neihaus at Intel Math for further questions about Intel Math instructors at (520) 403-5128 or aneihaus@math.arizona.edu.

Q. Can FTE of Project Administrator be split?

A. Yes, since it is listed as up to 1.0 full-time equivalent (FTE) in the RFP.