STUDENT RE-ENGAGEMENT MINI GRANT FAQ

1. **Can this grant be used to pay for an instructor who is GED test examiner certified to run a mobile GED testing unit?**

The grant may not be used to cover the cost of a GED Examiner.  The intent of the grant is for local school districts to increase the number of students becoming re-engaged within the local district’s educational system and to provide resources and supports for those students to work towards graduation and earning a high school diploma.

1. **The RFA states it is recommended to watch the TA session, but the link is not available. Can you send that to me?**

The TA session was posted to the KDE competitive grants page Wednesday, August 12th.

1. **In light of the COVID pandemic, are there any provisions for accepting electronic signatures? If yes, can the notary signature be electronic as well?**

The superintendent and notary signatures on the cover page should not be electronic. All other signatures may be electronic.

1. **The rubric is confusing. Parts 3 and 4 are combined. Does this mean that both sections together are worth up to 9 points or is each section worth 9 points?**

Sections 3 and 4 are combined for scoring for a total of 9 points possible.

1. **The exemplary section of the rubric for the Budget states, "Personnel, project activities timeline, and budget expenditures****congruent with project description and outcomes."  Does this mean that personnel and project activities timeline are discussed in the budget part rather than the implementation part?**

This means that your budget should match the plan. There should be no items in your budget that aren’t directly connected to the plan presented in sections 1-4.

1. **Is the rubric in the RFA what the reviewers will use to score proposals?**

Yes, the rubric in the RFA will be used by reviewers to score the applications received.

1. **Could you please define “1.0 spacing”?**

1.0 spacing means single line spacing.

1. **May 10 point font be used in tables?**

10 point font is acceptable for tables.

1. **Are the grant funds of federal or state origin?**

Federal Title IV, Part A state activities funds are the source for these mini-grants.

1. **Can we pay for fuel costs with the grant money?**

Yes, as long as the activity cannot be carried out without the transportation; and the transportation costs are not supplanting/replacing the traditional transportation provided by the school system, (i.e., going to and from school during school hours) then it is permissible. However, if transportation is being used to support activities that are supplemental in nature (e.g., wraparound and intervention activities such as tutoring and mental health services) then that is permissible.

1. **May footnotes for references listed in the narrative be placed in the 1” margin/footer at the bottom of the page?**

Yes.

1. **Is the application intended to focus on only the student re-engagement piece of Persistence to Graduation, or may strategies from the other three areas be included?**

These funds are intended to provide specific, targeted supports and interventions for students who have a prior drop-out status, are at risk of dropping out, or have been unreachable since the COVID-19 shelter at home orders. The primary aim of the grant is increasing the numbers of students becoming re-engaged in the educational process towards graduation. Funds are available to support activities in middle schools, high schools, and alternative education programs.

KDE produced practice briefs in four areas related to Persistence to Graduation (alternative education, community partnerships, culture and climate, and student transitions and reengagement) as resources for Kentucky educators engaged in dropout prevention work, but there are other strategies that may be the focus of the proposed re-engagement project. Specifically, please see the list under “Allowable Use of Funds” in the RFA for strategies that will be given priority. Applicants may also want to consider strategies mentioned in the “Resources” section of the RFA for strategies that may work best for the students identified for the project.

1. **May we use data from 18-19 (instead of data from 19-20) if it is the most comprehensive data?  (For example, the chronic absenteeism rates for 19-20 were impacted by the use of NTI instruction and would not be as accurate as data from 18-19.)**

Yes, however applicants are encouraged to consider data that identify students whose engagement in school was most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

1. **May an application include other data points beyond the sources listed in Part 2 of the RFA?**

Yes, districts are encouraged to use any relevant data that can be used to identify students in need of re-engagement support.

1. **Can these funds be used for staffing?**

Yes, only if this is for a new position or to supplement a current role within the district.

1. **Is there a preferred age range for projects supported through this grant?**

Funds are available to support activities in middle schools, high schools, and alternative education programs.

1. **Can we work with students ages 16 to 24?**

This grant can support students of any age as long as they were enrolled in the district during SY 19-20 and have not yet earned a diploma.

1. **Our project would be led at the district level by the Department of Pupil Personnel and adult education division. Can the assistant superintendents who oversee those divisions sign the principal assurance form as opposed to individual principals? The grant is not targeted at one specific school but instead could impact all of the district’s high schools. Principals will not be overseeing the work.**

Yes.

1. **May we include letters of support with our application?**

Letters of support may be attached but will not be scored or improve an applicant’s score during the application review process.

1. **Per the RFA, allowable uses of funds (page 5) include, “Programming and supports for students or professional learning for staff that utilizes one or more of the promising practices for the re-engagement of students....”  This list of promising practices includes work-based learning opportunities and contextual learning.  Can funds be used to provide student wages for participation in work-based learning opportunities and to cover related costs of travel and/or materials to participate in contextual learning?**

Funds may be used for work-based learning opportunities or internships that are supplemental in nature (e.g. during non-school hours). Funds can be used for transportation as long as the activity cannot be carried out without the transportation; and the transportation costs are not supplanting/replacing the traditional transportation provided by the school system (e.g. going to and from school during school hours would not be allowable). Funds may be used for materials to participate in contextual learning.

1. **Are all incentives prohibited? We saw the RFP referenced items such as t-shirts. What about other types of student incentives or stipends for participation in programming?**

Federal funds may be used for incentives so long as the incentives are nominal and are tied to student achievement. To justify these types of incentives, they must be both “necessary and reasonable.” Additionally, the reward cannot be cash, cash stipends, or gift cards and may not be used for entertainment that serves no programmatic purpose. Paying students an incentive or stipend such as cash simply to participate would not be a permissible activity.

Stipends are only permissible for student wages for on-the-job learning that would enhance student achievement, such as obtaining knowledge in a particular job field, and occurs as a supplemental service during non-school time.

1. **Could grant money be used to pay students an hourly work wage?  We wish to have students employed to develop work ready skills but understand it is increasingly difficult for employment opportunities specifically during COVID 19.**

Yes, funds can be used for student wages for internships or work-based learning opportunities during non-school hours.