

# RFP GC#16-011: 2016-2021 Bilingual Education Program Announcement of Funding Opportunity

## Questions and Answers Summary

1. My school has 28 students total in the ENL program. I want to apply for the bilingual grant for next year. I know that one needs 20 students same grade same language in a high school. We do not have those numbers. Can I still apply for this grant?

*Yes. There is no minimum number of ELLs speaking one native language needed by grade level in order to be eligible for bilingual education. If applying for a Dual Language program, at least 50% of the students need to be ELLs. CR Part 154 mandates that if a district has 20 or more ELLs in the same grade level that speak the same native language, then the district is required to provide a Bilingual Education program. [154-2.3(d)(4)]*

2. When will the schools be informed if they received the grant or not?

*The anticipated timeframe for preliminary award notification is summer 2016.*

3. May grant funds be used to pay for teachers to attend college or university courses to obtain a bilingual extension or take other relevant classes? If so, may payment be made directly by the district to the college/university or should it be paid as reimbursement to the teachers?

*No. The purpose of this grant program is for public school districts to open new Bilingual Education programs. Proposed expenditures should be directly in line with program activities and should be reasonable and necessary to carry out program goals and objectives.*

4. Our district has a Federal Pre-K Expansion Grant, would we qualify for this grant to support us in creating a Bilingual Education program for these students?

*No. This grant is for public school districts to open a K-12 Bilingual Education program in compliance with CR Part 154.*

5. How many ELLs who speak the same native language in adjacent grade levels does a district need to have to apply for this grant?

*There is no minimum number of ELLs speaking one native language needed by grade level in order to be eligible for bilingual education. If applying for a Dual Language program, at least 50% of the students need to be ELLs.*

6. I'm writing to inquire if the 2016-2021 Bilingual Education Program Grant is reliant upon having 20 or more ELLs district wide of the same grade level who speak the same home language. Are we able to apply for the grant if our district does not meet the above qualification?

*Yes. There is no minimum number of ELLs speaking one native language needed by grade level in order to be eligible for bilingual education. If applying for a Dual Language program, at least 50% of the students need to be ELLs. CR Part 154 mandates that if a district has 20 or more ELLs in the same grade level that speak the same native language, then the district is required to provide a Bilingual Education program. [154-2.3(d)(4)]*

7. How does this program differ from the Bilingual Education RFP posted 12/21/15?

*The RFP posted in December 2015 did not permit public school districts that are currently operating Bilingual Education programs with federal, state, or local funds to apply. This new RFP allows public school districts in NYS that are currently operating Bilingual Education programs with federal, state, or local funds to apply, provided that they are proposing to open a Bilingual Education program in a school that does not currently have a program.*

8. Are BOCES eligible applicants?

*No, BOCES are not eligible to apply for this opportunity. Eligible applicants are public school districts in New York State that are applying to open a program in a school that is not currently operating a Bilingual Education program with federal, state, or Local funds.*

9. We started a bilingual program in our primary school during the 2014-15 school year as our Latino population grew and we wanted to support our children and community. We want to expand the program to our intermediate (3-5) school for the 2016-17 school year. Are we eligible to apply for this grant?

*Yes. Public school districts in New York State may apply to open a Bilingual Education program in a school that is not currently operating a Bilingual Education program with federal, state, or local funds.*

10. According to the instructions, under the Staff Development Component (#3), should year 2017 be 2016? "Applicants may apply for up to \$50,000 per year, including the initial project period of October 1, 2017-June 30, 2017." On the first page of the instructions, under Funding & Project Period, the Anticipated project period stated 10/1/16 through 6/30/21.

*Yes, the year should state 2016, not 2017. The correct sentence is "Applicants may apply for up to \$50,000 per year, including the initial project period of October 1, 2016-June 30, 2017."*

11. We started a French Bilingual Program last year in our Middle School with a \$25,000 city grant and this year we are starting a High School program this year with a Project Bravo Grant.

Although, this does help to develop the programs it is very small and does not maintain it especially since our numbers have grown due to popularity. Are we ineligible for this grant?

*Public school districts in New York State may apply to open a Bilingual Education program only in a school that is not currently operating a Bilingual Education program with federal, state, or local funds.*

12. As a city school, we reside within district however we function independently. Can we apply as an individual school separate from the community district?

*In New York City, the eligible applicants are Community School Districts within the New York City Department of Education (NYCDOE). They may apply to open a Bilingual Education program in a school that is not currently operating Bilingual Education Programs with federal, state, or local funds.*

13. Does a district qualify to apply for this grant to implement a Dual Language Program in a Middle School where only a Transitional Bilingual option is available?

*No. Public school districts in New York State may apply to open a Bilingual Education program in a school that is not currently operating a Bilingual Education Program, either a Transitional Bilingual or a one-way or two-way Dual Language, with federal, state, or local funds.*

14. Is there a minimum number of English Language Learners that can be in a proposed program?

*There is no minimum number of ELLs speaking one native language needed by grade level in order to be eligible for bilingual education. If applying for a Dual Language program, at least 50% of the students need to be ELLs.*

15. One of the program objectives listed in the RFP is for student participants to perform at or above grade level in academic areas and to succeed on state assessments. Is there a timeframe for this? Within the five-year grant period? Also, how do you define "succeed?"

*For a student to succeed on state assessments, that student would score at or above proficient on the state assessments required pursuant to Sections 100.3 and 100.4 of Regulations of the Commissioner of Education.*

*The expectation is that these objectives will be met within the five-year grant period.*

16. Is it possible to hand-deliver our application materials? If so, can you give a contact name and phone number to provide to the security guard at the entrance to your building? If we hand-deliver our application materials on May 11, 2016, what is the latest time we can arrive?

*Mailed applications are strongly preferred. The applications can be hand-delivered to the New York State Education Department (NYSED) on May 11, 2016 no later than 3 PM with the contact name Kevin O'Brien, Office of Bilingual Education and World Languages (OBEWL).*

17. Would a school that is looking into creating a new bilingual program different than what already exists at the school qualify for this funding opportunity?

*No. Public school districts in New York State may apply to open a Bilingual Education program in a school that is not currently operating a Bilingual Education program with federal, state, or local funds.*