



Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

— Making a positive difference through education and service —

November 9, 2007

TO: School Administrators
Higher Education Faculty

FROM: Craig Rector
Director of Federal Discretionary Grants

SUBJECT: Availability of Title II, Part B., Mathematics and Science Partnership Program Funds

This is to announce a Request For Proposal (RFP) issued by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to Regional Professional Development Centers, departments of mathematics, science, engineering, and/or education at Missouri institutions of higher education; and high-need school districts that have formed partnerships that will provide program and resources to improve mathematics and science instruction. This Mathematics and Science Partnership Program RFP is for projects that, during a three-year period of state funding from the Federal government will result in significant steps toward improving student performance. The major focus is ensuring student success in meeting the State's content, skill, and performance standards.

Title II, Part B of this legislation authorizes a Mathematics and Science Partnership (MSP) competitive grant program. The intent of this program is to encourage institutions of higher education, local school districts, elementary schools, and secondary schools to participate in professional development activities that increase the subject matter knowledge and teaching skills of mathematics and science teachers. Professional development activities must be sustained, intensive, classroom focused, and aligned with state and local standards and mathematics and science curricula. These activities must result in a demonstrable and measurable improvement in student academic achievement in mathematics and science.

The Department is issuing a RFP to high-needs school districts to form partnerships with institutions of higher education and other public schools, regional professional development centers, businesses, and nonprofit or for-profit organizations concerned with providing English language learners with educational opportunities, with the specific intent to implement a program designed to:

- increase the ability for middle and high school teachers to provide instruction for English language learners in the core academic areas, specifically mathematics and science;
- increase the number of highly-qualified middle and secondary level teachers of English language learners;
- create Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol (SIOP) coaching/learning communities designed to develop ESL, math and science teacher-leaders who inquire into their own and each other's teaching practices in an effort to improve student achievement and English language acquisition;
- improve student academic achievement in mathematics, science and ESL; and,

- increase the number of ELL students who graduate from high school and continue on to post-secondary education.

The SIOP Model (Echevarria, Vogt, & Short, 2004) was developed to provide teachers with a well-articulated, practical model of sheltered instruction. As an empirically validated approach for educating English learners, the SIOP Model is currently used in all 50 states in hundreds of schools across the U.S., as well as in several other countries. The intent of the model is to facilitate high quality instruction for English learners (ELs) in content area teaching. The model is based on current knowledge and research-based practices for promoting learning with ELs. Critical features of high quality instruction for ELs are embedded within the SIOP Model.

Core partners in these grants must include education, mathematics, science, and/or engineering departments from higher education institutions, including community colleges. Partnerships of higher education, K-12 districts, and other stakeholders will draw upon the strong disciplinary expertise of the mathematicians, scientists, and engineering faculty from higher education institutions to develop professional development activities that will effect improvements in student outcomes by providing teachers with strong mathematics and/or science content knowledge. The Mathematics and Science Partnership Program awards are for projects in an amount of not more than \$500,000. One or more award(s) will be made for grades **6-12 Sheltered Instruction Observational Protocol (SIOP)**. The postmarked deadline for this RFP is December 31, 2007.

The RFP packet is available on the DESE web site at <http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/fedprog/discretionarygrants/Math&Science/index.html>

A workshop will be held to describe the process and requirements for this competitive process. Workshop details are as follows:

Location: Missouri Association of School Administrators Office Building
Gary Sharpe Educational Center
3550 Amazonas Drive
Jefferson City, Missouri, 65109-5716

Date: Thursday, November 29, 2007

Time: 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Please complete the pre-registration form for the workshop found at <http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/fedprog/discretionarygrants/Math&Science/index.html> Return the registration form to our office via fax at 573-526-6698 by 5:00 p.m., Wednesday November 21, 2007. Please print copies of the RFP materials from the website and bring to the workshop.

GRANT APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

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