

The Governor's Expanding Excellence Competitive (Mentoring) Grant Program

GUIDELINES

Grant Purpose

The purpose of the ***Governor's Expanding Excellence Competitive Grant Program*** is to create a culture of innovation and achievement in Pennsylvania's schools by recognizing high performance, providing funding to sustain and further improve performance, and providing an opportunity for high achieving schools to collaborate, mentor, and share best practices.

Mentors

A local educational agency with a school scoring 90 or above on the Pennsylvania School Performance Profile (SPP), based upon the 2012-2013 score, is eligible to participate in the competitive grant program.

Applicants who wish to participate will identify one or more SPP performance indicators which have contributed to their school's exemplary 90 or above score on the SPP. Applicants must then analyze their strategies, processes and techniques, and design a research based replication model/training tool or media product that systematically explains the proven process which can be replicated and used by schools across the Commonwealth to improve student achievement.

The initiative will culminate with a preview of the models at the October 2014 PASA-PSBA School Leadership Conference and with the December 2014 SAS Institute for the grant recipients to showcase their models and provide further mentoring, guidance and resources for school improvement.

Grant recipients will later be asked to select a school with an SPP score of 79 or lower to mentor and assist in implementing their research based strategy to improve the SPP indicator and student achievement.

Mentees

Districts which have schools with an SPP score of 79 or lower may also participate as a grant mentee. If selected as a grant mentee, the district will receive a \$10,000 grant award to assist in replicating the research based strategy designed to improve a designated SPP indicator.

Eligibility and Awards for Mentors

A local educational agency (with an AUN number) with one or more schools scoring 90 or higher on the Pennsylvania School Performance Profile (based upon the December 2013 full refresh of scores) may apply for a grant of \$25,000 for each identified SPP indicator in a high performing school that the applicant is willing to analyze.

A two-week grant application period will begin on approximately August 12, with awards issued on approximately August 31st. An initial payment will be issued with the award

announcement. Dissemination models must be completed and approved by PDE by September 30, 2014 for final payment.

Eligibility and Awards for Mentees

A local educational agency (with an AUN number) with one or more schools scoring 79 or lower on the Pennsylvania School Performance Profile (based upon the December 2013 full refresh of scores) may apply for a grant of \$10,000 to serve as a mentee to replicate a high performing school's researched based technique. Mentee grant awards will be issued by approximately October 31, 2014.

To apply to be a grant mentee, districts must email their intention to be considered as a mentee to Karl Streckewald at kstreckewa@pa.gov by August 15, 2014. Districts must email the district name, superintendent's name, email, telephone number, aid ratio and school to be mentored with its SPP score. **Districts applying for one of their schools to be a grant mentee do not have to complete an eGrants application at this time.**

Application Requirements/Guidelines for Mentors

To apply, applicants must have a 2012-2013 Performance Profile (SPP) score of 90 or above.

Applicants must analyze and explain the strategies/techniques which contributed to their successful score and determine at least one strategy directly related to an SPP performance indicator to share for replication/implementation.

Deliverables

- Each grant awardee will be required to budget and produce an Implementation Plan (IP) to improve a specific SPP indicator. The IP (high quality video, podcast, professional development/training plan/module, etc.), must be aligned to a specific SPP indicator. IPs will be used at statewide conferences and posted to both the Pennsylvania School Performance Profile (SPP) portal (in the School Support tab) and to the Standards Aligned System (SAS) portal to document and teach their analysis, strategies and techniques.
- Each grant awardee will be required to create and identify a moderator for a SAS Professional Learning Community (PLC) to be established and maintained by the awardee for a minimum of three years. The PLC will provide information and resources regarding the successful methodology/tool used by the high performing school. It will also serve as a forum for discussion and guidance on implementing the successful practice in other schools across the Commonwealth.
- Each grant awardee will be required to present at the October 2014 PASA-PSBA School Leadership Conference. Each grantee must register a 4 person team for

the conference and are encouraged to register 3 school board members who have not previously attended.

- Each grant awardee will be required to register and present at the December 2014 SAS Institute.

Tentative Timeline:

August 12, 2014:	eGrant application released
August 26, 2014:	Applications Due
August 27 – August 30, 2014:	Applications reviewed, scored and ranked
August 31:	Award Announcement

To Access the eGrant Application for Mentors:

- Go to <http://www.egrants.pa.gov/>
- Click the hyperlink for “login” in the 3rd paragraph.
- Login with your personal login for eGrants. If you do not have a login, contact the user-administrator at your district who can add you.
- Select the Governor’s Expanding Excellence Competitive (Mentoring) Grant Program.
 - If you do not see that grant as a choice, confirm that your district has a building with an SPP score of 90 or greater.
 - Then check that the date in the upper right hand corner shows 2014-2015 and that it shows the Bureau of Teaching and Learning. To change either of these, click on the item and a pop-up will allow you to make the change.
 - If you are still not able to enter the grant, contact Karl Streckewald at kstreckewa@pa.gov.
- Once you are logged in, additional support can be found by clicking the Home tab and selecting the appropriate user guide on the right.

Completing the Application

Date of Application: date when submitted

Demographics: complete as required

Market Value/Personal Income (MV/PI) Aid Ratio: this is a 4 place decimal assigned by the state

SPP Performance Indicators: Select the SPP indicator that will be used to apply for the grant by showing the strategy/methodology that improved that indicator.

Academic Achievement

- Mathematics/Algebra 1 – Percent Proficient or Advanced on PSSA/Keystone Exam
- Reading/Literature – Percent Proficient or Advanced on PSSA/Keystone Exam
- Science/Biology – Percent Proficient or Advanced on PSSA/Keystone Exam
- Writing – Percent Proficient or Advanced on PSSA/Keystone Exam
- Industry Standards-Based Competency Assessments – Percent Competent or Advanced
- Grade 3 Reading – Percent Proficient or Advanced on PSSA
- SAT/ACT College Ready Benchmark

Indicators of Academic Growth

- Mathematics/Algebra 1 – Meeting Annual Academic Growth Expectations
- Reading/Literature – Meeting Annual Academic Growth Expectations
- Science/Biology – Meeting Annual Academic Growth Expectations
- Writing – Meeting Annual Academic Growth Expectations

Other Academic Indicators

- Cohort Graduation Rate or Promotion Rate (If No Graduation Rate)
- Attendance
- Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) or College Credit
- PSAT/Plan Participation

Program Description:

1. **Description of Strategy Implemented to Improve the SPP Indicator:** The school must describe the overall strategy that improved the SPP indicator and explain the research that drove the selected strategy to achieve the desired outcome. The description should include any historical and contextual background to substantiate the choice.
2. **Quantitative Data:** The school must report quantitative data that supports the positive impact on student achievement and guided the analysis.
3. **Qualitative Data:** The school must report qualitative data that supports the positive impact on student achievement and guided the analysis.
4. **Implementation Plan:** The implementation plan should be designed to enable other schools to replicate the strategy. The applicant must describe the detailed, step by step process for implementing the strategy, including purpose, goals, timeline, action steps, personnel engagement, addressing

- implementation challenges, professional development, benchmarks to guide and measure success, data/evidence used to substantiate student achievement, estimated cost to replicate the strategy and any other factors critical to effective implementation.
5. **PLC moderator:** List the person who will act as the moderator for this indicator on the SAS Portal. This person will be responsible for loading relevant documents, responding to questions, and setting up the framework for the PLC prompts.
 6. **Uses of the Grant Funds:** Explain which of the following area(s) the remainder of the grant funds will be applied to for future improvement.
 - a. Development and production of the Implementation Plan
 - b. Fiscal incentives to staff (to the extent and in the manner permitted by the Collective Bargaining Unit)
 - c. Professional development
 - d. Stipend to staff for summer/after-hours training and development/substitute teachers
 - e. Materials/Equipment
 - f. Strategy/methods to target and improve another targeted SPP indicator
 - g. Expenses to register and attend the October PASA-PSBA School Leadership Conference
 - h. Expenses to register and attend the December SAS Institute
 - i. Other

Include a narrative describing the use of funds in greater detail.

7. **Budget:** Complete the budget in terms of Object and Function.

Questions may be directed to Dr. Michele Sellitto, Special Assistant to the Secretary, at msellitto@pa.gov or (717) 968-1995.