

Pennsylvania Department of Education  
Office of the Acting Secretary  
August 11, 2014

To: Superintendents  
Charter School CEOs  
Cyber Charter CEOs  
Directors  
Executive Directors

From: Carolyn C. Dumaresq, Ed.D.  
Acting Secretary of Education

Re: 2014-15 Governor's Expanding Excellence Competitive (Mentoring) Grant

The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) is pleased to announce the 2014-15 Governor's Expanding Excellence Mentoring Grant. The purpose of this communication is to provide an overview of the grant program and to announce grant applications can now be submitted through the eGrant system. Please note: the application process is open until **Aug. 26, 2014**.

The Governor's Expanding Excellence Mentoring Grant is designed to create a culture of innovation and achievement in Pennsylvania's public 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 an AUN Number) with a school scoring 90 or above on the Pennsylvania School Performance Profile (SPP), based upon the 2012-13 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 that can be replicated and used by schools across the Commonwealth to improve student achievement.

Selected mentors will receive a grant of \$25,000 for each identified SPP indicator in a high-performing school that the applicant is willing to analyze.

The initiative will culminate with a preview of the models at the October 2014 PASA-PSBA School Leadership Conference and 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 partner with 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. Preference will be given to schools that partner with a school outside of their district.

Grant awards will be issued at the end of August. An initial payment will be issued with the award announcement. Dissemination models must be completed and approved by PDE no later than September 30, 2014, for final payment.

### **Mentees**

Districts with schools that have SPP scores of 79 or lower may participate as grant mentees. Mentees must collaborate with the selected mentor school to gain the knowledge and insight necessary to implement the initiative. 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. To apply to be a grant mentee, districts with schools with an SPP score of 79 or below must email their intention to be considered as a mentee to Karl Streckewald at [kstreckewa@pa.gov](mailto:kstreckewa@pa.gov) by Aug. 15, 2014. Districts must email the district name, superintendent's name, email, telephone number, aid ratio and school(s) to be mentored with its SPP score and a desired area to receive mentoring.

Mentee grant awards will be issued by approximately Oct. 31, 2014.

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

### **To Access the Grant Guidelines:**

Go to

[http://www.education.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/competitive\\_grants/7462](http://www.education.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/competitive_grants/7462),  
or through the RSS feed on the SAS portal <http://www.pdesas.org>.

### **To Access the eGrant Application:**

Go to <http://www.egrants.pa.gov/>

Click the hyperlink for "Login" in the third paragraph.

Login with your personal login for eGrants. If you do not have a login, contact the user-administrator at your district to be added.

Select the Governor's Expanding Excellence Competitive Grant.

If you do not see that grant as a choice: Confirm that your district has a building with an SPP score of 90 or higher. 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](mailto: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.

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