
Teacher/Leader Quality Partnership Grants: Background Information

Application due: 12/10/2010 at 5:00 p.m.

Background Information

The district list of High Need School Districts can be found in the following document. [High Need School Districts](#)

Wyoming High Need School Districts

Based on 2008 Census Data, the following two districts designated as "high need" meet criteria A and B. (Refer to High Need School District document for an explanation.) Districts this year are:

Fremont CSD #14; Ethete, WY

Fremont CSD #38; Arapahoe, WY

The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 that reauthorized the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), was signed into law in January 2002. Title II, Part A, Subpart 3, Teacher and Principal Quality Training and Recruiting Fund Subgrants to Eligible Partnerships, replaced the Title II Eisenhower Higher Education Professional Development Grants.

Title II, Part A, Subpart 3 provides grants to state education agencies (SEAs), local education agencies (LEAs), state agencies for higher education (SAHEs), and eligible partnerships to :

- * Increase student academic achievement by providing sustained, high-quality professional development that ensures:
 - a. teachers, highly qualified paraprofessionals, and principals have subject matter knowledge in the subjects they teach, and
 - b. principals have instructional leadership skills that effectively support their work with teachers.
- * Hold LEAs and schools accountable for improvements in student academic achievement;
- * Hold LEAs and schools accountable so that all who teach core academic subjects in public elementary and secondary schools are highly qualified; and
- * Promote and support exemplary teaching practices that result in eliminating statistical achievement differences by gender, race, ethnicity, SES, disability, or any other population groups.

In the current competition, the Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) anticipates awarding \$347,084 to eligible partnerships. The grant funds will be awarded to projects that develop and submit an approvable plan to provide professional development for K-12 teachers, highly qualified paraprofessionals, and principals in one or more of the core academic subjects.

Definitions

Note: For a complete list of all definitions related to this legislation, please refer to the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, Title IX - General Provisions, Part A - Definitions.

Core Academic Subjects:

The term "core academic subjects" means English, reading or language arts, mathematics, science, foreign languages, civics and government, economics, arts, history, and geography.

High-Need School District:

Such a school district serves no fewer than 10,000 children from families with incomes below the poverty line or has no less than 20 percent of the children served by the district from families with incomes below the poverty line, and has either a high percentage of teachers who are not teaching in the academic subjects or grade levels in which they were trained to teach or has a high percentage of teachers with emergency, provisional, or temporary certification or licensing. (Under the definition in the law, Wyoming has no districts that qualify; subsequently, Wyoming Department of Education applied and was approved for an adjusted definition; see 'High Needs School Districts' page under 'Background Information' tab and 'Eligibility' tab.)

Highly Qualified Paraprofessional:

A paraprofessional with a post-secondary education or demonstrated competence in a field or academic subject for which there is a significant shortage of qualified teachers or who has minimum of 2 years of experience in a classroom.

Low-Performing School:

The term "low-performing school" means an elementary school or secondary school that is identified as needing improvement for failing to make adequate yearly progress in enabling all students to meet academic achievement standards as defined in the state's own plan for two consecutive years.

Major Role:

"Major role" is defined as having key responsibilities such as those of a administrator/fiscal agent, co-director, evaluator, consultant, or it may also be defined in terms of the amount of money received in compensation from the grant (i.e., an individual may not receive more than 10% of the total grant request if that individual is participating in more than one grant).

Out-of-Field Teacher:

This term defines a teacher who is teaching an academic subject or a grade level for which the teacher is not highly qualified.

Paraprofessional:

A "paraprofessional" is an individual with instructional duties. Individuals who work solely in non-instructional roles such as food service, cafeteria, playground supervision, personal care services, and non-instructional computer assistance are not considered to be paraprofessional.

Professional development: (NCLB, Title IX, Section 9101):

"(A) includes activities that -

- (i) improve and increase teachers' knowledge of the academic subjects the teachers teach, and enable teachers to become highly qualified;
- (ii) are an integral part of broad school-wide and district-wide educational improvement plans;
- (iii) give teachers, principals, and administrators the knowledge and skills to provide students with the opportunity to meet challenging State academic content standards and student academic achievement standards;
- (iv) improve classroom management skills;
- (v) (I) are high quality, sustained, intensive, and classroom-focused in order to have a positive and lasting impact on classroom instruction and the teacher's performance in the classroom; and(II) are not 1 day or short-term workshops or conferences;

- (vi) support the recruiting, hiring, and training of highly qualified teachers, including teachers who became highly qualified through State and local alternative routes to certification; and
 - (vii) advance teacher understanding of effective instructional strategies that are -
 - (I) based on scientifically based research (except that this sub-clause shall not apply to activities carried out under Part D of Title II); and
 - (II) strategies for improving student academic achievement or substantially increasing the knowledge and teaching skills of teachers; and
 - (viii) are aligned with and directly related to -
 - (I) State academic content standards, student academic achievement standards and assessments; and
 - (II) the curricula and programs tied to the standards described in sub-clause (I) except that this sub-clause shall not apply to activities described in clauses (ii) and (iii) of section 2123(3)(B)(effective instructional practices);
 - (ix) are developed with extensive participation of teachers, principals, parents, and administrators of schools to be served under this Act;
 - (x) are designed to give teachers of limited English proficient children, and other teachers and instructional staff, the knowledge and skills to provide instruction and appropriate language and academic support services to those children, including the appropriate use of curricula and assessments;
 - (xi) to the extent appropriate, provide training for teachers and principals in the use of technology so that technology and technology applications are effectively used in the classroom to improve teaching and learning in the curricula and core academic subjects in which the teachers teach;
 - (xii) as a whole, are regularly evaluated for their impact on increased teacher effectiveness and improved student academic achievement, with the findings of the evaluations used to improve the quality of professional development;**
 - (xiii) provide instruction in methods of teaching children with special needs;
 - (xiv) include instruction in the use of data and assessments to inform and instruct classroom practice; and
 - (xv) include instruction in ways that teachers, principals, pupil services personnel, and school administrators may work more effectively with parents; and
- (B) may include activities that -
- (i) involve the forming of partnerships with institutions of higher education to establish school-based teacher training programs that provide prospective teachers and beginning teachers with an opportunity to work under the guidance of experienced teachers and college faculty;
 - (ii) create programs to enable paraprofessionals (assisting teachers employed by a local educational agency receiving assistance under Part A of Title I) to obtain the education necessary for those paraprofessionals to become certified and licensed teachers; and
 - (iii) provide follow-up training to teachers who have participated in activities described in subparagraph (A) or another clause of this subparagraph that are designed to ensure that the knowledge and skills learned by the teachers are implemented in the classroom."

Definitions

Scientifically Based Research: The term "scientifically based research"

- 1) Means research that involves the application of rigorous, systematic, and objective procedures to obtain reliable and valid knowledge relevant to education activities and programs; and
- 2) Includes research that:
 - * Employs systematic, empirical methods that draw on observation or experiment;
 - * Involves rigorous data analyses that are adequate to test the stated hypotheses and justify the general conclusions drawn;
 - * Relies on measurements or observational methods that provide reliable and valid data across evaluators and observers, across multiple measurement and observations, and across studies by the same or different investigators;
 - * **Is evaluated using experimental or quasi-experimental designs in which individuals, entities, programs, or activities are assigned to different conditions, with appropriate controls to evaluate the effects of the condition of interest and with a preference for random-assignment experiments or other designs to the extent that those designs contain within-condition or across-condition controls;**
 - * Ensures that experimental studies are presented in sufficient detail and clarity to allow for replication or, at a minimum, to offer the opportunity to build systematically on their findings; and
 - * Has been accepted by a peer-reviewed journal or approved by a panel of independent experts through a comparably rigorous, objective, and scientific review.

Standards-Based Curriculum:

- * Expectations for learning are high for all students and developmentally appropriate;
- * Standards guide all classroom decisions;
- * The focus is always on student learning
- * Effective instructional practices result in higher levels of achievement for all students; and
- * Assessment outcomes are used to inform the teacher about the effectiveness of curricular and instructional decisions.

Scope of the WDE Teacher/Leader Quality Partnership Grants

The Appendix A High Need School Districts can be found in the following document.

[High Need School Districts](#)

Scope of the WDE Teacher/Leader Quality Partnership Grants

2.1 Availability and Duration of Funding

- * \$347,084 will be available for grant distribution on a competitive basis.
- * The amount awarded per project proposal is expected to be in a range upward from \$25,000.
- * Funds will be awarded to worthy proposals to begin project activities in January 2011 and to finish by the end of September 2012.
- * Although projects will be funded on a year-to-year basis, project administrators/fiscal agents are encouraged to design projects with multi-year funding (1-3 years) in mind.

2.2 Participants/Time Commitment

2.2.1 Participants.

Each project proposal is expected to serve a minimum of 25 participants. K-12 teachers, administrators, and highly qualified paraprofessionals may participate in the project. The high need school district (see Appendix A) is expected to provide a significant number of the total participants. Please keep in mind that the reviewers of submitted projects are likely to consider the cost (grant funds) per participant. Proposals should clearly state the expected number of participants.

2.2.2 Time Commitment.

Summer activities are expected to be scheduled for 10-15 days and academic-year workshops for 4-10 days, for a total of 14-25 days of professional development. One professional development day is expected to last six (6) hours. The project activities may be in the form of a course taught in a classroom setting and/or job-embedded format, with optional graduate credit awarded. University project staff should provide additional support at participating school sites during the academic year.

2.3 Number of Projects to be Funded

The number of projects funded depends on the number and quality of proposals. Equitable geographic distribution is required by law. Both factors will be considered in the process of awarding the grants.

2.4 Origins of Proposals

Proposals developed and submitted by eligible partnerships (see the Eligibility tab) will be accepted for review. Innovative proposals targeted at focused grade levels and based on the identified needs of specific schools within a qualified school district (especially low-performing schools) are strongly encouraged.

2.5 General Guidelines

2.5.1 Administration

The administrator/fiscal agent for the project will need to be identified in the application. **The administrator/fiscal agent may be any one of the required eligible partners.** The named administrator/fiscal agent will be responsible for administering all aspects relating to the project, including, but not limited to, coordinating all financial details, completing all forms, and assuring that all requirements and guidelines are followed.

Note: NCLB Title II, Part A, Section 2132(c) states that "**no single participant in an eligible partnership (i.e., no single high-need LEA, no single institution of higher education (IHE) and its division that prepares teachers and principals, no single school of arts and sciences, and no single other partner), may "use" more than 50 percent of the sub-grant. The provision does not focus on which partner receives the funds, but which partner directly benefits from them.**" (Please refer to NCLB Title II, Part A, Non-Regulatory Guidance, dated October 5, 2006, F. Federal Awards to the State Agency for Higher Education (SAHE) - Special Rule, F-29. The administrator/fiscal agent for the project shall keep an "audit trail" beginning with the preparation of the application, and shall include records to support the application (See Section 76.730 and

76.731 of EDGAR [Education Department General Administrative Regulations - EDGAR is available from the U.S. Department of Education). These records must show:

1. the amount of funds under the grant;
2. how the recipient uses the funds (the requirements of Title II, Part A, Section 2132(c) referenced above regarding the 50 percent limitation requirement needs to be clearly documented);
3. the total cost of the project;
4. the share of the cost provided from other sources (if applicable); and
5. other records to facilitate an effective audit.

The administrator/fiscal agent will retain records of the program for five years and will allow access to those records for purposes of review and audit.

2.5.2 Availability of College or Continuing Education Credit for Participants/Permitted Tuition Rate.

Proposed projects are expected to provide an opportunity for participating educators (teachers, administrators, and highly qualified paraprofessionals) to obtain college or university credit. However, **credit must be an opportunity and not a requirement.** Educators must be able to attend project activities at no cost and for no credit if they so choose. Participants who wish to receive credit are responsible for tuition and fees as described below.

If instructor costs are paid with grant funds, the institution of higher education (IHE) granting the credit may only charge an administrative recording fee to the participants registering for credit.

2.5.3 Credit and Disclaimer.

Statements of credit and disclaimer are required by the U.S. Department of Education (USED) and the Wyoming Department of Education (WDE). Therefore, credit and disclaimer for both USED and WDE must be included in all notices, recruiting brochures, workshops materials, and any other publications produced with support of WDE grants. The two statements below will satisfy this requirement:

This project is funded by a federal grant under No Child Left Behind (NCLB) [P.L. 107-110, Title II, Part A, Subpart 3] administered by the Wyoming Department of Education. [If applicable, also name any other federal/non-federal programs granting funds to the project with amounts of money/percentage of project being funded from these sources.]

Opinions and findings expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the position or policy of the U.S. Department of Education or the Wyoming Department of Education, and no official endorsement by either of these agencies should be inferred.

2.5.4 Site Visits(s).

During the time period covered by this grant, a site visit from the Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) Title IIA Grant Manager or another representative of the WDE may be expected. It is the responsibility of the administrator/fiscal agent to ensure that the WDE is kept current as to when the activities that are outlined in the grant application are scheduled.

Eligibility

The Appendix A High Need School Districts can be found in the following document.

[High Needs School Districts](#)

Partnership Eligibility

The WDE Teacher/Leader Quality Partnership Grant will be awarded competitively to eligible partnerships.

An eligible partnership must include at least:

- 1) a public or private institution of higher education and the division of the institution that prepares teachers and/or principals;
- 2) a school or college of arts and sciences; and
- 3) a high-need school district (see Appendix A)

The application may originate from any of the required partners.

In addition to the above required partnerships, additional partners may include another school district, a public charter school, an educational service agency, a nonprofit private school*, another institution of higher education, a school of arts and sciences within such an institution, the division of such an institution that prepares teachers and/or principals, a nonprofit cultural organization, an entity carrying out a pre-kindergarten program, a teacher organization, a principal organization, or a business. *[NCLB, Title II, Part A, Subpart 3, Section 2131 (1)]*

No institution of higher education individual may play a major role in more than one submitted proposal; however, an eligible institution of higher education may be a partner or a lead institution on more than one proposal. An eligible school district may be a partner in two grant applications. WDE will resolve cases of ambiguity regarding eligibility and participation.

* The project manager must document the invitation extended to area private schools to participate in the planning of the project and in the project professional development activities.

Activities

Activities

Funds for the partnership are to be used by the universities, districts, and/or local schools to :

- 1) Plan and provide professional development that:
 - * Is designed to meet the specific needs of the partner district(s),
 - * Includes intensive, school-based, job-embedded follow-up and
 - * Spans a period beginning January 2011 through September 2012.
- 2) **Provide professional development in one or more of the core academic subjects.**
The goal is to ensure that K-12 teachers and paraprofessionals have subject-matter and technology knowledge, and that principals have instructional leadership skills.
- 3) Support teachers in the implementation of standards-based instructional practices.
- 4) Develop materials in collaboration with the program participants that can be used to support/improve teaching and learning.

While funding is for only one year, the partnership proposal should be written with possible multi-year funding in mind (1 to 3 years), as recent studies strongly suggest that ongoing professional development experiences can have a substantial, positive influence on both teachers' classroom practice and student achievement. The duration of professional development is related to the depth of positive teacher change. Research on teacher learning shows that successful professional development shares several core features:

- 1) Ongoing collaboration of teachers (measured in years) for purposes of planning;
- 2) The explicit goal of improving students' achievement of clear learning goals;
- 3) Professional development that is anchored by attention to students' thinking, the curriculum, and pedagogy; and
- 4) Access to alternative ideas and methods, with opportunities to observe these in action and to reflect on the reasons for their effectiveness.

Project proposals submitted to WDE should include, in the project design, how these core features will be addressed.

While content-rich, the proposed projects should model standards-based curricula as well as instructional and assessment practices, in keeping with state standards. The content-rich curriculum should broaden and deepen the subject-matter knowledge of the participants. The leadership skills necessary to provide guidance to teachers in the content area should include knowledge of learning styles/multiple intelligences of both adults and children and knowledge of attitudes that might inhibit change. Projects should equip participants with the skills and abilities to serve all students and to raise the performance of all students. Consideration will be given to projects that are designed to enhance the capacity for long-term sustainable growth and reform in these areas. The projects should help to chart new directions for professional development in schools, recognizing that teachers will not be able to meet the goals of reform without strong support. The project design should also foster school-building teams or school-district teams of teachers, principals, and paraprofessionals who will work together for support-team purposes throughout the year.

Geographic Distribution

Geographic Distribution

Title II, Part A, Subpart 3, requires that grants are (1) equitably distributed by geographic area within a state; or (2) eligible partnerships in all geographic areas within the state are served through the grants. *(NCLB, Section 2132 [b])*

Teacher/Leader Quality Partnership Grants: Review of Proposals

All proposals will be evaluated by a review panel composed of at least three peers and/or stakeholders having expertise in teacher/leader quality, reading/language arts or foreign language, or other core academic subjects. Proposals will be selected for funding based upon the following criteria:

1. final score assigned by the proposal review team (based on the scoring rubric);
2. project significance and objectives;
3. cost effectiveness ratio determined by the relationship between the number of teachers served, the actual amount of teacher-faculty instructional contact time, and the total cost of the program;
4. all partnerships are equitably distributed by geographical area; and
5. funds available.

The Wyoming Department of Education:

1. May not fund any or all proposals.
2. May reject proposals that do not meet specific specifications and criteria.
3. May select review panel as deemed appropriate.
4. May partially fund projects or adjust award amounts.
5. Will reject proposals received late.
6. Will inform eligible partners of this RFP.
7. Will use a competitive grants scoring system for the selection process.
8. Will provide technical assistance to preparers of proposals if requested.
9. Will continue to offer technical assistance to successful applicants throughout the term of the grant.
10. Will announce grant awards within a reasonable time via the eGrants Management System.

Requests for clarification of the requirements or for other assistance in preparing and submitting proposals should be directed to Anne Ochs at 307-682-4550 or e-mail aochsgrants@yahoo.com

Awards will be announced on or about January 30, 2011.

Teacher/Leader Quality Partnership Grant Basic Rubric

Reader Name:

Review Date:

Wyoming Department of Education Competitive Grant Basic Point Requirements: 0 - 102 points

1 Point	2 Points	3 Points	Points Awarded	Weight	Total Points Awarded
1. Abstract Abstract not completely based on RFP requirements.	Abstract is based on the RFP requirements, but is incomplete and/or lengthy.	Abstract complete and concise and is based on the RFP requirements.	<input type="checkbox"/>	x <input type="text" value="1"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Statement of Need Portions of the Statement of Need may not support the goals and objectives of the proposal.	Statement of Need is based on valid data appropriate to the area of service, but is not clear and concise.	Statement of Need is clear, concise and based on valid data appropriate to the area of service.	<input type="checkbox"/>	x <input type="text" value="3"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Population Proposal indicates the population to be served but this population does not meet any of the requirements specified in the RFP.	Proposal indicates population to be served, but this population does not exactly match the population described in the RFP.	Proposal indicates population to be served and serves the population indicated in RFP.	<input type="checkbox"/>	x <input type="text" value="2"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Community Involvement Coordination Limited coordination with other education, government, and community agencies/businesses/schools is included.	Coordination with other education, government, and community agencies/businesses/schools is included but sketchy.	Coordination with other education, government, and community agencies/businesses/schools is described in detail.	<input type="checkbox"/>	x <input type="text" value="2"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Project Goals Project goals are described, but are not appropriate to the project as required in the RFP.	Project goals are described and are appropriate to the project, but are not clearly defined as required in the RFP.	Project goals are described in a clear, organized manner and are appropriate to the project as required in the RFP.	<input type="checkbox"/>	x <input type="text" value="5"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Measurable Objectives Objectives described are not measurable. They may or may not relate to the project goals and RFP requirements.	Some objectives are measurable, not all. All or most relate to the project goals and fulfill requirements in the RFP.	All objectives are measurable and described in a clear, organized manner. Each relates to the project goals and fulfills requirements in the RFP.	<input type="checkbox"/>	x <input type="text" value="5"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Activities The activities described do not relate to the planned objectives.	Some, not all, of the activities described are instrumental in reaching the planned objectives as they relate to the project goals required in the RFP.	The activities described are instrumental in reaching the planned objectives as they relate to the project goals required in the RFP.	<input type="checkbox"/>	x <input type="text" value="5"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

8. Timelines

Timeline appears unrealistic.

There is a realistic timeline for reaching most, not all, goals and objectives.

There is a realistic timeline for reaching all goals and objectives within the grant period.

x

9. Evaluation

Evaluation is planned for some or all objectives, but does not seem effective.

Effective evaluation is planned for some objectives, not all.

Effective evaluation is planned for each objective.

x

10. Disseminating Results

There are plans to share results of the project, but the methods appear ineffective.

There are clear plans to share results of the project, but the method described does not include all educators that could be affected.

There is a clear, effective method described for sharing the results of the project with educators in participant schools as well as the region and state.

x

11. Job Descriptions

Only curricula vitae were included.

Job descriptions and/or curricula vitae were not complete or do not relate to the project goals and objectives.

There are job descriptions and curricula vitae for budgeted staff. The descriptions support project goals and objectives.

x

12. Budget Structure

There is little or no alignment of the expenditures with the project activities.

Some, but not all, expenditures are adequately described, allowable, and aligned with the project goals and objectives.

All expenditures are adequately described, allowable, and aligned with the project goals and objectives.

x

Grand Total:

Reader Comments: (4,000 Character Maximum)

Calculate Totals

Teacher/Leader Quality Partnership Grant Program Specific Rubric

Reader Name:

Review Date:

Wyoming Department of Education Competitive Grant Title II, Part A, Subpart 3, Specific Requirements: 0 - 165 points

1 Point	2 Points	3 Points	Points Awarded	Weight	Total Points Awarded
1. Required Partnership					
Project does not clearly identify required partners.		Project clearly identifies required partners.	<input type="checkbox"/>	x <input type="text" value="5"/>	<input type="text"/>
2. Establishment of Data Driven Needs					
Limited or unclear description of needs and how these needs were used to determine project goals and measurable objectives.	Meets expectations of describing needs and how these needs were used to determine project goals and measurable objectives.	Exceeds expectations of describing needs and how these needs were used to determine project goals and measurable objectives.	<input type="checkbox"/>	x <input type="text" value="6"/>	<input type="text"/>
3. Target of Project					
The target of the project is minimally defined.	The target of the project is defined, but lacks clarity.	The target of the project is clearly defined.	<input type="checkbox"/>	x <input type="text" value="7"/>	<input type="text"/>
4. Project Goals and Measurable Objectives					
The proposal is unclear in two of the areas bulleted in the 3 point column.	The proposal is unclear in one of the areas bulleted in the 3 point column.	The proposal meets all of the following priority criteria: * Specific, clearly stated, achievable and measurable goals are written in student-centered terms. * Specific, clearly stated, achievable and measurable goals are stated for the participants. These goals are aligned with the student academic goals. * Clear objectives (competencies) for the participants. * Clear statement of the expected number of participants and their position.	<input type="checkbox"/>	x <input type="text" value="7"/>	<input type="text"/>
5. LEA Collaboration					
Unclear description of required collaboration.	Description of required collaboration by both school district(s) and higher education meets the expectations of the RFP.	Description of required collaboration by both school district(s) and higher education exceeds the expectation of the RFP.	<input type="checkbox"/>	x <input type="text" value="6"/>	<input type="text"/>
6. Description of Activities					
The proposal is unclear in two of the	The proposal is unclear in one of the	The proposal meets all of the following activity			

areas bulleted in the 3 point column.

areas bulleted in the 3 point column.

description requirements:

x

* Explanation of activities refers to objectives by number.

* Subject content and pedagogical skills are described.

* Teaching strategies are described.

* Tentative summer schedule, with contact hours, is provided.

* Tentative follow-up schedule is provided.

7. WDE Content Standards

Limited or unclear alignment of project with WDE state content standards and challenging student performance standards.

Meets expectation of aligning project with WDE state content standards and challenging student performance standards.

Exceeds expectations of aligning project with WDE state content standards and challenging student performance standards.

x

8. Professional Development Standards

Some application of generally accepted professional development activities but not up to expectations.

Meets expectations of high quality professional development.

Exceeds expectations of high quality professional development.

x

9. Job Embeddedness

Some follow-up exists to embed the learning in the daily jobs of educators.

Meets expectations to embed the learning in the daily jobs of educators.

Exceeds expectations to embed the learning in the daily jobs of educators.

x

Grand Total:

Reader Comments: (4,000 Character Maximum)

Calculate Totals