

## Mathematics and Science Partnership (MSP) Program Overview

The Mathematics and Science Partnership Program is funded under Title II Part B of the *No Child Left Behind Act*. Its purpose is to improve the content knowledge and teaching skills of mathematics and/or science teachers to increase the achievement of their students.

Eligibility: To be eligible, a partnership must include, at a minimum:

- an engineering, mathematics, or science department of an institution of higher education (IHE); and
- a high-need local education agency (LEA).

A partnership may include:

- another engineering, mathematics, science or teacher training department of an IHE;
- additional LEAs, public charter schools, public or private schools, or a consortium of such schools;
- a nonprofit or for-profit organization of demonstrated effectiveness on improving the quality of mathematics and science teachers; and/or
- a state or federal agency.

A local educational agency must be the lead partner and fiscal agent for the application process. Each MSP must include one high-need and/or low performing school district. High need districts are defined as those with 60% or greater of the student population eligible for free or reduced lunch. Low performing school districts are those with a letter grade of C, D, or F.

Note: The Title IX Uniform Provisions, which include the requirements governing equitable participation of private school students, teachers, and other educational personnel, apply to the Title II, Part B Math Science Partnership Awards. Representatives of the private school community in the region of each partnership are to be included in the planning, development, and teacher recruitment of MSP proposals.

### Allowable Expenses

It is estimated the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) will have approximately \$1,100,000.00 to allocate for seven new MSP Projects for 2014-15.

Leadership teams should plan for three year awards pending (a) continued federal funding of the Title II, Part B MSP program and (b) evidence of project effectiveness.

Allowable costs are those that are necessary and reasonable for implementation of the MSP project and are able to be linked to specific activities of the project.

Consultant contracts should not exceed \$50/presentation hour and \$25/planning and preparation time for a maximum of \$800/day.

Travel reimbursement is limited to the state-approved rate per mile and per diems. LEAs with more stringent Board-approved travel may submit the policy for review and request higher travel costs in some categories.

Supplies and materials may not exceed \$8,000 for projects with 25 – 30 participants. Projects of 30 or more participants may submit budget requests for a maximum of \$10,000 in supplies and materials. These funds are for materials and supplies used as part of the professional development and content instruction of the teacher participants. No federal MSP funds may be used to purchase instructional materials for the students of the teacher participants.

The Indirect Cost rate provided to the LEA fiscal agent shall not exceed 8%. Districts may only receive indirect costs at the rate they have been approved for during the present fiscal year. Therefore, the Indirect Cost rate of a proposal may be less than 8%, but can be no more than 8%.

MSP program funds must be used to **supplement and not supplant** funds that would otherwise be used to support the proposed activities.

OMB Circulars establish spending rules for recipients and subrecipients of all federal funds. OMB Circulars can be located at [http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/circulars\\_default](http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/circulars_default)

## **Allowable Expenses**

### 100 Salaries

- Teacher stipends for participants not to exceed \$30/hour with a \$180/day limit
- Master Teacher/Teacher Leader stipends not to exceed \$35/hour
- Substitute pay when academic year training is held during school time

### 200 Employee Benefits

- Employee fringe benefits (i.e., retirement, FICA, insurance)

### 300 Purchased Professional & Technical Services

- Contract costs for IHE content instructors and consultant services

### 500 Other Purchased Services

- In-state travel, mileage, meals, registration fees to attend in-state content conferences, and workshops
- Out-of-state travel for MSP project director and one other approved project person to attend the US ED MSP Regional Meeting
- Stipend and employee benefit costs for participants from partner districts and non-public schools

### 600 Supplies

- Materials and supplies needed to support the designed professional

development

### **Unallowable Expenses**

- Food, beverage, entertainment
- Land or building acquisition
- Permanent equipment (i.e., digital or video cameras, computers or tablets, mobile devices, network systems, etc.
- Promotional or marketing items
- Property or furniture for office use
- Salaries for administrative, clerical/office personnel, site coordinators, classroom coaches or school/project liaisons
- Support for the research of individual faculty members
- Software site licenses
- Construction costs or costs for renovating and remodeling
- Pre-award costs or costs associated with writing the application
- Tuition charges and/or university fees. As IHE salaries and fringe are funded by MSP, it is suggested that tuition and university fees be waived for participants. LEAs may use other available tuition funds as necessary. Teacher participants wishing to earn credit as a result of their participation in an MSP Project where the cost is not waived by the university or covered by LEA Money, will need to personally pay for the course charges and/or university fees.

If you have questions about allowable and unallowable expenses, please e-mail your questions to [jean.may-brett@la.gov](mailto:jean.may-brett@la.gov).

If awarded MSP funds, all LEA awardees will complete an online Annual Performance Report to be submitted to the LDOE 30 days following the end of the annual activities. The LDOE will review and submit the report to the US ED within 60 days of the completion of the annual activities. Projects should expect one or more site visits each year from LDOE staff.

