**OFFICE OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION**

**NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY**

**SUMMER ACCELERATOR GRANT**

**Request for Application (RFA) Release Date: Thursday, March 17, 2022, 12 p.m.**

The Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) is soliciting grant applications for the District of Columbia Summer Accelerator Grant. The purpose of this grant is to implement a high-quality summer instructional planning to support students in the District. The overall goal of the Summer Accelerator Grant is to provide Local Education Agencies (LEAs) funding to accelerate the learning of students in key grades by providing 1,800 minutes of learning throughout the summer in up to two subject areas (English Language Arts and/or Mathematics) with teachers who have a track record of advancing students’ academic growth. Learning acceleration is an approach that gives students laser focused instruction on the specific skills and content that they need to learn on grade level material.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2019 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) results showed significant gains for the District of Columbia in three of four areas assessed overall, while also revealing that significant gaps still exist between students experiencing disadvantages, students of color, students with disabilities (SWDs), and English Learners (ELs), compared to their peers not in these subgroups. In 2019, only 27.9% of Black/African-American students and 37.5% of Hispanic/Latino students met or exceeded expectations on the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) English language arts (ELA) assessment, compared to 84.8% of white students. In addition, only 9.8% of SWDs met or exceeded expectations. The student subgroup classified as “at risk” had a similarly low performance level of 21.3% (DC OSSE, 2020). In 2018-19, just 20.2% of all ELs met or exceeded expectations on PARCC ELA, a striking 17% lower than their non-EL peers. Furthermore, only 31% of ELs met their annual growth target in English proficiency in 2018-19, pointing to the critical need even prior to the COVID-19 pandemic for increased literacy instruction to meet ELs' unique needs as learners and unlock their full potential (DC [OSSE](https://www.nationsreportcard.gov/ndecore/xplore/NDE), 2020).

The source of funds for the FY22 Summer Accelerator grant consists entirely of federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief funds authorized by the American Rescue Plan, 2021 (Public Law 117-2) and administered by the U.S. Department of Education.

**Eligibility and Selection Criteria:** OSSE will make these grants available through a competitive process. An eligible entity must be a Local Education Agency (LEA) that provides core instruction focused on any of the targeted grades; kindergarten, Grades 1-4, Grade 8 and/or Grade 10. CBOs are not eligible for this funding. Applications will be scored on the following selection criteria: Program Features, Program Implementation and Monitoring, and Financial Management and Sustainability.

**Length of Award:**  This is a one-year grant. The initial grant period will begin on May 20, 2022 and end on September 30, 2022.

**Available Funding for Award:** The total funding available for this award is $5,000,000.00 over the course of three years. Year one will award up to $2,000,000.00. Year two will award up to $2,000,000.00. Year three will award up to $1,000,000.00. LEAs should aim to support 10% of students with the greatest need. For each student in attendance LEAs will receive $500 per student who attends. LEAs should estimate total number of students planning on attending summer accelerator programming. Attendance averages will be calculated the final week of programming to determine exact numbers of students in attendance for final award amount. OSSE anticipates awarding 2-5 LEAs with funding.

**Application Process:** The grants described in this NOFA will be awarded competitively. A panel or panels of external reviewers will be convened to review, score, and rank each application. The review panel(s) will be composed of neutral, qualified, professional individuals selected for their expertise, knowledge, and/or related experiences. All external reviewers must sign a Conflict of Interest statement. The application will be scored against a rubric and each application will have at least three external reviewers to ensure accurate scoring. Upon completion of the panels’ review, the panels shall make recommendations for awards based on the scoring rubric(s). The State Superintendent of Education, or his/her designee, will consider those recommendations but all final award decisions are left to the Superintendent’s, or his/her designee’s, discretion.

Applications must be submitted no later than Monday, April 18, 2022. A signed optional Notification of Intent to Apply should be submitted by Monday, March 28, 2022.OSSE anticipates that it will award subgrants by Friday, May 20, 2022, however, this date may change.

The RFA will be available on the OSSE website. The application is available through the Enterprise Grants Management System (EGMS) [Grants.Osse.Dc.Gov](about:blank).

**For additional information regarding this competition:**

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