

Smart Scholars ECHS

Request for Proposal Questions and Answers Summary

PLEASE NOTE: RFP GC18 -006 is being revised as indicated below. Please see the end of the Q&A Summary for a detailed list of the relevant sections.

- x ECHS partnerships may only include one public school district. Applicants may not propose a consortium involving more than one school district or a BOCES. BOCES may not be a member of the partnership and therefore may not serve as implementation lead.
- x The ECHS must provide students with 90 hours of extended learning time in all implementation years, including the first implementation year.
- x The scoring rubric has been revised to remove references to articulation agreements with other IHEs and a career focus and work-based learning. These elements are not a requirement of this grant.

Please note that the application deadline has been extended to December 11, 2017.

No. Public school districts must serve as the applicant/fiscal agent for this grant SURJUDP 3OHDVH UHIHU WR HOLJLELOLW\ FUMWLROVQ 19, on page 13 of the RFP for additional information.

6. There are frequent mentions of a required two or three college courses on campus. Can you clarify in which cases two courses are required? In which cases

schools are not located in that county/region, does the applicant qualify as being part of that region?

No, the applicant only qualifies as being part of the region in which its district office is located.

11. In the previous round of ECHS, the first program year was 1/2 of the school year, and the Extended Learning time was calculated as 1/2 a year. Though the first program year for this round is a full year, on page 40, section 4, part b states that only 45 hours of Extended Learning Time is required. Is this correct?

Thank you for your observation. We agree that since the first implementation period for this RFP is one full year, the Extended Learning Time should be 90 hours during that time.

12. If the collaborating Business/Industry Entity is also an MWBE, are they limited to the 25% expenditure cap, even with the 30% MWBE target?

All applicants must comply with the 25% subcontracting limit. Applications that exceed the limit will not be considered for an award. This limit applies to all subcontractors, including MWBE subcontractors, but does not apply to service contracts between the school district and IHE partners.

All applicants are required to comply with the MWBE policy by identifying areas in their budget where an MWBE can be utilized. MWBE participation includes services, materials, or supplies purchased from minority and women-owned firms certified with the NYS Division of Minority and Women Business Development. The MWBE Grant Coordinator is available throughout the application and procurement process and can be reached at MWBEgrants@nysed.gov

13. How many days per week are required for the three-week on-campus summer program?

Please refer to 5. Support Structures, a.:

Provide plans for creating and implementing strategies and activities that foster a distinct college-going culture at the ECHS, such as bridge programs, participation in college activities, or college visits. All students, regardless of program location, will attend a summer program on the partner college campus during the school year. The summer program must be of at least three weeks duration. The summer program may be of longer duration and include one or more college courses. (page 41)

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to ensure their mastery of college level work and readiness to complete a
postsecondary degree.

The national Early College High School Initiative has found that the experience of
attending classes and other activities on a college campus significantly contributes to
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applicants provide all students with at least two courses on the partner IHE campus,
and encourages applicants to hold a significant number of classes and/or activities on
the partner IHE campus.

Furthermore, ECHSs not located on the partner IHE campus must be located close
enough

they have either an IEP or 504 plan. For the purposes of this grant, to be considered a student with disabilities, does the student have to have an IEP or 504 plan?

Yes, the student must have an IEP or 504-plan to be classified as a student with a disability.

22. If a program includes students from multiple districts, can the students take courses together through distance learning? Or must the students be physically located in the same room?

ECHS must be located at one common site. Please note that the grant announcement has been revised to clarify that ECHS may only include a single NYS public school district, therefore students should not be attending from multiple districts.

23. If you partner with another district do you still need 25 students from each district or is it combined?

See response to question #22. Students should not be attending from multiple districts.

24. If a district partners with one or two other school districts, is one school the host site or can each school have their own site?

See response to question #22. Students should not be attending from multiple districts. ECHS must be located at one common site.

25. Can a school district submit proposals for more than one school within the district?

A school district may submit more than one application for different projects offered at different sites within the district, but each application would need to include separate budget documentation, separate administration/staff, and separate student populations who could not move between projects at different sites.

26. Why are public charter high schools excluded from the RFP?

As provided in the budget resolution, a school district is an eligible applicant, not an individual school.

27. Could you cite the language of the law, budget resolution, or regulation that provides that charter schools are excluded? Or, if this was a decision within SUNY or NYSED or some other agency, let us know the division or unit that made the decision?

Please see page 747, line 1621 of the 2017-2018 budget appropriation .

28. If we have a current Smart Scholars ECHS, can current students continue to have credits funded within this new application, or will a separate academy need to be established separating smart scholars from this new group? Essentially, current SSECHS students having credits funded this year will lose that opportunity when smart scholars ends next year, but a new group of ninth graders would have funding in 18/19 along with ensuing cohorts. Correct?

Current Smart Scholars students cannot be served using funding from this new

34. Would this proposal allow students that are not in the targeted group of historically underrepresented and/or economically disadvantaged be able to

at least three; on page 41, two are indicated except when an associates degree is earned, then three is required. Please clarify.

The reference on page 40 to three credits for all programs is an error. ECHSs that are not located on the partner IHE campus must require students to take at least two courses on the partner IHE campus. For ECHS programs in which students earn an associate degree, students must take at least three of their college courses on the partner IHE campus.

40. Can you please provide the RFP in MS Word format to facilitate form completion?

If you email us directly we can provide the RFP in MS Word format. We are unable to do so in MS Works.

41. Can the District apply for an existing, fully operational ECHS with 100 students per grade level under this competition and continue to enroll only 100 students per grade, or must the District use these new funds to increase student enrollment at the existing school or open a new school?

Current Smart Scholars students cannot be served using funding from this new grant. This is not a continuation grant for currently operating Smart Scholars projects. If awarded, funds from this grant would need to serve a different group of students.

42. Is the FS-10 only required for the Planning Period (1/1/18 – 8/31/18)? On P. 30 of the RFP, it states that 1) an FS -10 for the planning period must be submitted, then 2) the FS -10 should provide a projection of how the funds will be used in the planning and first implementation period.

The FS

44. Are financial penalties cumulative? If enrollment drops and students do not earn the targeted number of college credits, will funding be decreased by the sum of these penalties?

Financial penalties will not be cumulative. The budget would be decreased by whichever of the two penalties were greater.

45. Are there financial penalties for not meeting the attendance rate of 95% or any of the other identified performance standards?

The financial penalties are outlined under Performance Standards on page 11 of the RFP² specifically for enrollment and credit -attainment standards. There is no financial penalty for not meeting the attendance rate. The District will be held responsible for the success.

46. On the Budget Worksheets, what does the asterisk (*) after Indirect Cost (IC)* mean?

The asterisk (*) after Indirect Cost (IC)* indicates that the Indirect Cost calculations that are described on page 33 of the RFP.

47. The RFP for this grant states: Eligible Student: A NYS public high school student who is a legal resident of New York State, who is economically disadvantaged or from a group that is historically underrepresented in postsecondary education, and (a) a citizen of the United States, or (b) an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence in the United States, or (c) an individual of a class of refugees paroled by the attorney general of the United States under his parole authority pertaining to the admission of aliens to the United States. At least 95% of the ECHS enrolled students must meet these targeted eligibility requirements.

The District does not collect such data regarding students' citizenship/legal permanent residence status. Is the District permitted to apply for and potentially receive this grant?

The District is permitted to apply for this grant. The RFP is not requiring districts to solicit information regarding student citizenship or permanent residency; rather please verify NYS residency as defined on page 8 (i.e., "New York State Residency: The student is a resident of the State if his/her domicile is in New York State and he/she is enrolled in an eligible NYS public school in grades 9 through 12").

Other eligibility criteria include being economically disadvantaged; from a group that is historically underrepresented in postsecondary education; or first-generation college goer. The applicant must be able to certify that at least 95% of the students

that would be served, if awarded, meet the aforementioned eligibility criteria, outlined in the RFP.

48. In order to get the bonus points for a Computer Science focus, do you have to exclusively offer Computer Science courses/degree pathways, or can you also have other fields?

emphasize that ECHS requires that all participants are housed together in one location that allows for classroom instruction and the development of a common college - going culture for its participants. Applicants must address transportation, limited funding , and relevant logistical issues, etc. that may arise.

55. Are students required to take at least two (or three in the case of associate degree candidates) of their college courses on the college campus per semester, per academic year or over the four -year period of the program?

The students are expected to take these minimum coursework requirements over the four-

are best used to support their design and project goals. Allowable and non -allowable

Any costs associated with professional development for teachers who are not part of the Smart Scholars ECHS project must be shared proportionately with the school district or other funding source.

66. Will there be a discussion with the partner district regarding the tuition rate prior to the rate being established?

Discussions between school districts and IHE partners are the purview of awarded projects.

67. Can we include the cost of peer mentors in the grant to assist and support student s who might be struggling academically?

Yes, costs associated with peer mentors can be included in the proposal.

68. Will you provide funding for existing programs in order to phase out the current group of students?

We are currently working on something to address this.

- 69.

NYS Smart Scholars Early College High School
RFP #GC18-006
Corrections and Clarifications

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS FOR THE NYS EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL 2018-2022 RFP #GC18-006:

On Page 1, Under Eligible Applicants: BOCES are incorrectly identified as possible project

