VISION 2020 Grant Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Please continue to access this page for more clarifying information as it becomes available. To see the prior FAQs for the TIP program see: http://www.tea.state.tx.us/opge/disc/tip_cont/faq_4.6.06.pdf

These FAQs were last updated on 3.5.08.

The entire Applicants Conference will be digitally recorded. Prospective applicants who are not able to attend the Applicant's Conference may request a password to download the video stream that is viewable on their computer desktop. Applicants should contact the TETN Site Manager at their local educational service center (ESC) to request the procedures to download the video stream. To locate the nearest TETN facility, the following webpage has links and contact information for each ESC in Texas: http://www.tea.state.tx.us/ESC/

GENERAL Questions for Vision 2020 Application - Immersion and Virtual Learning Strands

Program Questions - Immersion Strand

1. **Do the 6 components that are required in the immersion part of the grant have to come from a pre-selected vendor (such as in the prior TIP grants?).**

No, the school will ensure they already have or will address each component with grant funds to experience all 6 components that define immersion.

2. **Is there a list of recommended vendors to use for this grant (like the original TIP grants)?**

There is no recommended list for this grant. If you want to see what the original TIP grant schools used, see the TIP website under project partners at http://www.txtip.info/abouttip/projectpartners.html

3. **Can funds be used in the Immersion strand to cover the costs of equipping a classroom lab for access to courses?**

No. Immersion strand applicants will not be allowed to do this as they will be immersing on a 1:1 basis.

Program Questions - Virtual Learning Strand

4. **Can funds be used in the Virtual Learning strand to cover the costs of equipping a classroom lab for access to courses?**

Yes. Virtual Learning strand applicants will be allowed to do this as needed for the implementation of the grant program.

5. **Can you buy student laptops or handhelds under the Virtual Learning strand with these funds?**

Yes, laptops may be purchased if appropriate to the program being implemented. Handhelds are not suitable for taking online courses.

General Questions

6. Will administrators be required to participate in professional development?

Yes, the professional development must address the participation of administrators at the district and campus level.

7. Due to the limited space in the application, are applicants allowed to remove the NCLB and Professional Development descriptions in the boxes in order to have enough room for our information?

On this page applicants need to provide only a brief overview of the primary goals of NCLB and the professional development activities. The forms must not be altered.

8. Where is the Notice of Intent?

The Notice of Intent is included in the RFA and is a planning process to notify the grant and program offices of the LEAs intent to apply for the grant. Go to http://burleson.tea.state.tx.us/GrantOpportunities/forms/ and then select the 2008-2010 Title II, Part D - VISION 2020 Grant Application from the Application Name drop down menu.

The Notice of Intent for this grant is not mandatory. Applicants may fax the Notice of Intent to (512) 463-9811.

9. I have a specific question about my school district and our application for the VISION 2020 grant. Can you please call me?

In order to assure that no prospective applicant may obtain a competitive advantage because of acquisition of information unknown to other prospective applicants, any additional information, that is different from or in addition to, information provided in the RFA or at the Applicant's Conference will be provided only in response to written inquiries. Please send questions to VISION2020@tea.state.tx.us.

10. Will the funding be for both years of the grant or are the schools going to have to reapply for the second year?

Funding is for both years of the one grant period.

11. What is Maintenance of Effort or MOE?

Public Law 107-110, Section 9521 states "a local educational agency may receive funds under a covered program for any fiscal year only if the State educational agency finds that either the combined fiscal effort per student or the aggregate expenditures of such agency and the State with respect to the provision of free public education by such agency for the preceding fiscal year was not less than 90% of such combined fiscal effort or aggregate expenditures for the second preceding fiscal year". This maintenance of effort requirement applies to all Vision 2020 grants.

Title II D requires that grantees must address maintenance of effort (MOE) each year. For example, if a district meets only 88% of the 90% requirement per the TEA School Audits Division, then 2% of the level they did not meet MOE will be reduced in the grant they are awarded by that same 2%.

12. Will this be a one time grant opportunity or will there be continuation grants?

Funding is contingent on federal appropriations. The presidential budget is not recommending funding for Title II, Part D Enhancing Education Through Technology For federal fiscal year 2008. At this time, we do not know if there will be continuation grants.

13. How do applicants base reasonable costs in determining number of students and teachers served?

This is where applicants make their case based on their own school substantial needs.

14. Will this grant preclude us from getting other grants?

Title II D grants are not included in the list of grants that would make your LEA ineligible to receive other grants at the agency.

15. Where do applicants send their faxes for the Notice of Intent if they are not going through?

The fax number is provided by the grants office, it is 512-463-9811. Please contact the Discretionary Grants office at 512-463-9269 if you are not able to send your fax.

Shared Services Arrangements (SSAs)

16. Should we omit Schedule #2 from the application if there is no shared service agreement?

Yes. Please review the instructions for Schedule #1—General Information, Part 1: Application Table of Contents for more information on which schedules are mandatory. Some boxes on the schedule have been marked for you. These indicate forms that are mandatory in applying for this grant program and cannot be unmarked. Ensure that these schedules are attached to the application. Do not include those schedules which do not apply or for which a budget is not prepared. Examples: If the project does not have SSA, do not include Schedule #2. If supplies and materials are not to be funded for this project, do not include Schedule #5D.

17. Will there be a list posted on the grants website of the attendees from Applicants Conference via TETN to see if we can partner with another LEA?

Yes. The list will be posted as soon as possible.

18. Do applicants need to include their district in Schedule #2 under Participant List as a Fiscal Agent if they are applying as a school district and will not be including other LEAs. If so, do applicants need to provide a copy of their district board minutes indicating authorization prior to submitting this application?

No. See question 17. If the project does not have SSA, do not include Schedule #2.

19. If a district applies as part of a collaborative application and that application is awarded, will all the participant members of that collaboration be awarded?

Yes. The application is reviewed, scored and awarded based on all members of an SSA. The education agency named on Schedule #1 is the administrative and fiscal agent for the project and receives the Notice of Grant Award (NOGA). They are accountable for all shared services arrangement activities and responsible for ensuring that all funds including payments to members of shared services arrangements are expended in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. If a district is a SSA that is not in compliance with submitting annual financial audit report to TEA, that district will be ineligible to receive any flow of funds through the SSA until such time as the audit is submitted and accepted by TEA Division of Financial Audits. Also, if any member districts not in compliance with MOE, the amount to benefit those districts will be awarded accordingly which will decrease the total award amount.

20. Are applicants required to have the "blue ink" original signature of all member districts involved in a shared service arrangement?

An original signature from each member district is required. TEA prefers blue ink because we can easily distinguish the original.

21. Our ESC is planning to submit a proposal on behalf of an SSA that includes several LEAs. When referring to the Evidence of Readiness, is this for the Center's staff qualifications and infrastructure, or for each of the LEA's that would be included?

Both. The grant states, "Applicants must describe their evidence of readiness to implement and support this grant program. Evidence of readiness must be provided in both pedagogical support and technical capacity." The LEAs must be ready to receive and build capacity with the proposed program, and the ESC that is serving as a fiscal agent must demonstrate staff qualifications and infrastructure capacity to provide the program.

Eligibility

22. Regarding eligibility, how may we determine whether our LEA is a high-need LEA by the poverty definition? Does the TEA maintain information on whether our LEA, serves a student population with more than 20% of students from families with incomes below the poverty line as identified by 2004 census data?

The eligibility requirements are determined by the 2004 Census. The census list is maintained by NCLB Coordination at TEA. Go to http://burleson.tea.state.tx.us/GrantOpportunities/forms/ and then select the 2008-2010 Title II, Part D - VISION 2020 Grant Application from the Application Name drop down menu and will be located within. The list is located at this site and identifies the districts eligible for the VISION 2020 grant.

23. Our district is considering applying for the VISION 2020 Grant, but we have a question about whether we are eligible based on our Texas Campus STaR Chart. Specifically, what is considered "having a substantial need for assistance in acquiring and using technology" as reflected on the chart? Is a school that has scored a 2 on the campus chart sufficient to show a substantial need?

The district's application must reflect a substantial need as identified in the STaR Chart with any focus area of Teaching and Learning or Educator Preparation and Development. Substantial need should not be dependent upon the level of progress; however, the higher the level of progress the less likely of a high substantial need.

24. Where can I find 2004 Census data?

Go to http://burleson.tea.state.tx.us/GrantOpportunities/forms/ and then select the 2008-2010 Title II, Part D - VISION 2020 Grant Application from the Application Name drop down menu.

25. I would like to understand exactly where the census data comes from. I have not been able to find the answer myself or anyone locally that could it explain it to me. In past grants that our district has received, the percent students receiving free or reduced lunch have been the criteria. For my district, that number has consistently been in the mid to upper 30s for the past several years. So, please explain to me the difference between "free or reduced lunch" and "families with incomes below the poverty line."

Where does the 2004 Census Data come from? I thought an actual census was only taken every ten years. Is this data extrapolated from the 2000 census somehow?

If census data is used, does it just consider residents within the city limits? A substantial portion of our district lies outside of the city limits and the largest portion of our poorer students live outside the city limits. Why use 2004 data when it is 2008? A community could easily cross the criteria line during that span of time.

I can appreciate the need to narrow the field of potential applicants; however, I really would like to find out the answers to the questions above so that I can better understand why we are not eligible to apply for the grant.

Federal Title II D eligibility requirements specify children from families with incomes below the poverty line as identified by census data. The data comes from the 2004 Federal Census which is the latest available. We receive this information from the U. S. Department of Education.

The VISION 2020 grant is a federally funded grant.

26. I am writing to inquire about the eligibility of non-profits for the VISION 2020 grant. As I understand it, non-profits may apply in partnership with a high need LEA. Does this mean that the fiscal agent and primary applicant must be the LEA?

Yes, the fiscal agent and primary applicant must be the LEA.

27. Are districts on the eligibility list already screened for Title I A corrective action?

No, the Title I list is a separate link located at

Link to schools identified for improvement under Title I A:
http://www.tea.state.tx.us/nclb/titleia/sip/2007-08/2007-08_sip.html

28. Can applicants use the current STaR Chart data in the eligibility calculation?

Applicants must use 2006-2007 Campus STaR Chart data. Applicants can retrieve the data from the STaR Chart public website http://starchart2.esc12.net

Yes, provided they meet all of the grant requirements.

29. First, as we were looking at the eligibility for our district, we discovered that we were on the list for meeting the percent for poverty. The other criterion explains that the LEA must have a school that is identified for improvement or corrective action.

Would corrective action include our Title I High School as they have had to complete a campus intervention plan as well as have a team in place due to their unacceptable ranking?

Link to schools identified for improvement under Title I A:
http://www.tea.state.tx.us/nclb/titleia/sip/2007-08/2007-08_sip.html
This list would determine if the high school was listed for corrective action under Title I. The eligibility requirements for this grant state that the district must serve one or more schools identified for improvement or corrective action under Title I (section 1116), **OR** has a substantial need for assistance in acquiring and using technology as reflected in the Campus STaR Chart.

30. If a district has 58% free and reduced lunch percentage, why does it not qualify as having at least 20% of families below the poverty line? I realize these percentages could be different, but this seems to be a considerable discrepancy.

The VISION 2020 Grant is a Federal Grant under NCLB which requires that eligibility be based on census data. TEA must comply with Federal mandates for poverty by using the 2004 census. Free and reduced lunch is not considered for eligibility in this grant program. Also, see number 25.

31. **The eligibility requirements for this grant state that the district must serve one or more schools identified for improvement or corrective action under Title I (section 1116), OR has a substantial need for assistance in acquiring and using technology as reflected in the Campus STaR Chart.**

   Our district has a couple of secondary schools that are identified for improvement or corrective action under Title I (section 1116), however these campuses are already receiving extra funding to address their areas of need.

   This includes funding for staff development and to acquire technology that will facilitate the delivery of instruction. The campuses at our district that we feel need more assistance with technology staff development and equipment at our elementary schools. These schools are not identified as needing improvement under Title I (section 1116).

   Applicants and their participants must meet the primary eligibility requirements which state:

   b. serves one or more schools identified for improvement or corrective action under Title I (section 1116), OR has a substantial need for assistance in acquiring and using technology as reflected in the Texas Campus STaR Chart.

It is acceptable to include any qualifying school in your district. If your elementary schools qualify under substantial need as reflected in the Texas Campus STaR Chart, you may want to use this qualifier instead.

32. **If a district is receiving E-Rate discounts do they still qualify for the VISION 2020 grant application? The district does meet the program eligibility requirements on family's income below poverty and is identified by either Title 1 as in need of improvement as well as qualifies under the Texas Campus STaR Chart.**

Applicants will qualify if they meet all eligibility requirements. E-Rate discounts are not applicable to VISION 2020 grant requirements.

33. **On Schedule 4A – Needs Assessment do applicants enter all of data for the district if they are only applying for high school?**

Applicants would list the district name and enter any participating campuses and check the box that defines their eligibility for participating.

34. **The RFA states that an application must include an ePlan approval for the 2007-2008 school year for each participating district. Many LEAs that have eplan approval June 30, 2008 are going through a process of gathering stakeholder input to craft new ePlans. In order to meet the RFA requirement, these districts would have to accelerate a board-approved process and/or not gather input from key stakeholders in order to meet the VISION 2020 deadline. Is there any recourse for these districts —- for example could they submit the eplan approval certificate at time of grant negotiation or no later than September 1, 2008?**

The deadline for this grant is May 1, 2008, which is the end of the 2007-2008 school year. The 2007-2008 ePlan should be the LEAs current plan. All applications **must** have on file at TEA a **current ePlan** (2007-2008) certification for **each participating district**. Also, the grantee must submit in the first progress report an ePlan to cover the 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 school years.

Before forwarding the application for competitive review and scoring, TEA will verify whether the current ePlan (2007-2008) has been submitted and certified. If applicants have not submitted the ePlan to TEA and had it certified by the application deadline date of May 1, 2008, the application is not eligible to be forwarded for review and scoring and will be returned to the applicant.

35. Are applicants supposed to submit Campus Improvement Plans as part of the VISION 2020 grant application?

No. The application does not need to include the Campus Improvement Plan, only the required attachments listed in the application.

36. In the Applicant's Conference TETN session regarding the VISION 2020 grant, participants were told to use 2006-07 STaR chart data in grant applications. Please verify that the needs and rationale for a grant that will be implemented in the fall of 2008 should be based on data that, in many cases, will be two years old at the time of implementation. Many of the teachers and administrators who contributed data in the fall of 2006 are no longer assigned to applicable schools. The STaR chart instrument being used as a baseline is not the same (contained different questions) as the STaR chart that will be used to assess progress during the grant period.

The 2006-2007 Start Chart data is the most current available. The 2006-2007 data used is to determine substantial need for eligibility to submit application. Account for all variables as applicants assess progress.

37. Will the grant be based on the campus chart or the teacher STaR Chart?

Substantial need for assistance in acquiring and using technology is reflected in the Texas Campus STaR Chart.

High Need

38. Can a non-high need LEA serve as a fiscal agent for the VISION 2020 grant?

Yes. An LEA (i.e., public school district, open enrollment charter school, or ESC) may serve as the applicant and fiscal agent of a shared services arrangement (SSA) of high-need LEAs or of a partnership.

39. Would eligible private schools be considered as high need or as mentors? Do they need to submit completed STaR Charts as well?

Eligible private nonprofit schools can be considered as high need or as mentors. They may print and fill out a campus STaR Chart located at http://www.tea.state.tx.us/starchart and attach to the application. For those private nonprofit schools that choose to participate, the LEA must provide a genuine opportunity for them to participate in the planning, design, and implementation of the program services and activities. For additional information regarding requirements for private nonprofit school participation, go to http://www.tea.state.tx.us/opge/grantdev/faq.html#E.

Substantial Need

40. Districts who meet the 20% poverty level, but aren't sure they have substantial need as reflected by the Campus STaR Chart. According to the STaR chart campuses can be either Early Tech, Developing Tech, Advanced Tech or Target Tech with regards to Infrastructure for Technology. Please clarify which of these designations are considered "substantial need."

The district's application must reflect a substantial need as identified in the STaR Chart with any focus area of Teaching and Learning or Educator Preparation and Development. Substantial need should not be dependent upon the level of progress; however, the higher the level of progress the less likely of a high substantial need.

41. We are looking at applying for the VISION 2020 Grant. In looking at the requirements, we see that one of the criteria could be "having a substantial need for assistance in acquiring and using technology as reflected on the Texas Campus STaR Chart." After a review of our STaR Chart data, we have identified several campuses that have rated themselves in the Early Tech to the Developing Tech category. Could we identify a specific number of schools with this rating or would we have to include all campuses with comparable ratings?

Yes, the application may identify the specific campuses targeted by the grant and does not have to include all campuses with the same rating. The rationale for selecting the participating campuses should be explained in the application.

Professional Development

42. What costs are included in the 25% that has to be used for professional development?

Professional development costs can include extra duty pay, registration fees and travel costs (including hotel, airfare, meals, etc) for attendance at relevant training or conferences, contracted services for professional development and depending on how it will be used to benefit professional development, an appropriate portion of equipment costs could be counted toward these costs.

43. Regarding training for leadership in small districts with only one administrator - Is it a requirement for principal and assistant principal to participate? What if the school only has a principal?

Smaller districts may send only the principal if an assistant principal position does not exist. Other administrators such as the technology coordinator can be substituted for the assistant principal.

Purchasing

44. Instructions recommend leveraging other funds and specifically mention Title IID funds. Can equipment needed to implement the VISION 2020 program be purchased with Title I funds for a school that is designated as a Title I campus for the first time in 2008-09?

Yes, equipment needed to implement the VISION 2020 program can be purchased with leveraged funding even if 2008-2009 school year is the first year designation. The purchase must also comply with the Title I requirements.

45. We would like to have a grant kick-off to promote the grant activities and invite our superintendent etc. Can any of the grant funds be used to pay for food or room rental fees?

The grant kick off promotion is an unallowable cost. Refer to Guidelines Related to Specific Costs located at http://www.tea.state.tx.us/opge/grantdev/admin.html for allowable and unallowable costs.

46. Are purchases of student laptops allowable?

Yes, for both strands.

47. Would insurance be an allowable cost for hardware purchases with grant funds?

Yes. Insurance and security of equipment need to be taken into consideration.

48. Would extra or extended warrantees for hardware purchases be allowable with grant funds?

Yes, as long as the warrantee serves within the dates of the grant period. Grant funds cannot be used to provide services outside of the grant period.

49. Are handhelds an appropriate purchase for a wireless mobile computing device for the Immersion Strand?

Yes, but only for the Immersion strand, and not the Virtual Learning strand.

50. Can grant funds be used to purchase carts for storing laptops?

Yes.

51. Can we budget for supply items like printer paper, cables and cords for use with the equipment, and batteries in a general supply category and not have to list each thing separately?

Yes. General supplies do not require specific approval. Please review the instructions for Supplies and Materials Schedule.

52. Can payroll funds be used to fund technical/pedagogical support positions?

Yes.

Private Schools

53.   How do we include the private school if our grant focus is on high school?

The LEA must annually contact private nonprofit school officials located within the LEA's boundaries to determine whether the private nonprofit school officials desire that their children participate in the federal programs and services. If private nonprofit schools desire to participate, the needs of the private nonprofit school must be met, reguardless of whether or not the focus is the same as the public school.For additional information regarding requirements for private nonprofit participation, go to http://www.tea.state.tx.us/opge/grantdev/faq.html#E.

54.   Must a private nonprofit school meet the Long Range Plan Technology requirements?

Any private nonprofit school participating must submit a technology plan for their school to the district applying for the grant to include with the grant application.

55.   Is it a requirement to include private nonprofit schools if they want to participate?

Yes, the LEA must annually contact private nonprofit school officials located within the LEA's boundaries to determine whether the private nonprofit school officials desire that their children participate in the federal programs and services. For additional information regarding requirements for private nonprofit participation, go to http://www.tea.state.tx.us/opge/grantdev/faq.html#E.

56. Does the private nonprofit formula apply?

Yes. For additional information regarding requirements for private nonprofit participation, go to http://www.tea.state.tx.us/opge/grantdev/faq.html#E.

57.   Just for clarification, do private schools have to qualify to be included in the VISION 2020 Grant by having 20% or 2500 students below the poverty line?

No. Just like non-high need LEAs a private nonprofit school can only participate through a partnership. A partnership must include at least one high need LEA to be eligible to apply for this grant.

58. All private nonprofit schools in the attendance zones of targeted campuses were contacted and given the opportunity to participate in the VISION 2020 grant. Only one was interested and that school does not (and will not) have an approved ePlan. Can the district apply with no partnerships?

Districts can apply without partnerships. Private nonprofit schools must include a technology plan as a part of the application to participate in the partnership. All participants including private nonprofit schools must meet all requirements. Applications will not be reviewed or scored if they are missing required attachments.

59. Please clarify if teachers from private, nonprofit campus can be paid stipends for completing training.

An LEA can pay for private nonprofit teacher stipends with federal funds. The LEA may not send funds to the private nonprofit school to pay the teachers, but they may pay the teachers directly using the stipends to non employees on schedule 6400.

60. What is considered equitable in terms of private school participation?

Equitable Services—private nonprofit schools must be offered equitable services and other benefits (as compared to public school children and teachers) that address their needs under the program.

Equitable means comparable to the services provided in the public school in quality, scope, and opportunity for participation.

61. Regarding involvement of private schools, do I need to offer the extra duty pay and equipment to the private schools, or am I meeting the intent of the grant by only offering the professional development at no cost?

Refer to the instructions for Schedule #4E, Private Nonprofit Schools, of the Standard Application System (SAS) for specific guidelines and instructions. It states that private nonprofit schools must be consulted in the planning and development of the project. Both children and teachers from private nonprofit schools must be assured equitable participation in all services, materials, equipment, and teacher training.

62. A private school that wishes to participate in the VISION 2020 Grant has not completed the STaR Chart, nor have they completed an E-plan. They do comply with CIPA and have a technology plan on paper. They have also administered a technology survey to their teachers. Is there documentation that can be submitted in place of the STaR Chart and the E-plan certification for a private school?

You must submit their written technology plan attached to your application. The STaR Chart is also a requirement and must be attached to the application. They may print and fill out a campus STaR Chart located at http://www.tea.state.tx.us/starchart and attach to the application.

Award Amounts

63. I would like to know how much the VISION 2020 grant can be budgeted by a school district. I know that the grant sizes as indicated in the announcement is between $25,000 and $500,000. I would like to know if that amount is further reduced by the school district size (student population) or any other factor. Any information on this matter would greatly be appreciated.

Funds requested must be only for those items that are reasonable and necessary for accomplishing the objectives of the program and for implementing activities as described in the application. Funding

amounts are based on the needs of the LEA(s). The funding amount requested should be based on the number of students, teachers, and administrators served by the grant.

64. I want to verify that the total amount that can be requested for the VISION 2020 grant is $500,000 for the entire project period. We can't apply for $500,000 for year one and an additional $500,000 for year two, correct?

The VISION 2020 Grant is a two year grant with one funding period. Each applicant may be funded in amounts ranging from $25,000 to $500,000. The final funding amounts will be based on number of students, teachers and administrators served. Applicants must plan for a project starting date of no earlier than September 1, 2008, and an ending date of no later than June 30, 2010.

65. Is the maximum request $500,000 or can an application request more than $500,000? Please clarify.

The application may not request more than $500,000.

66. In the past our Business Office has always charged about 6 or 7% in indirect costs. Does this mean that only the grant coordinator can charge to the VISION 2020 budget but not the Business Office?

Administrative costs are limited to 3%. Administrative costs include both direct administrative cost and indirect costs. This is a federally-funded grant.

67. Should the proposed budget in the grant application cover year one of the grant, or both years?

The proposed budget should be for the term of the two-year grant.

68. How should applicants address pre-awards as we complete the activity timelines section?

Pre award costs are not allowed in this RFA.

69. Can schools use/leverage Title I funds for equipment if they are a first time designated Title I school. Would they be supplanting?

The applicants may elect to use additional resources to maximize the effectiveness of the project goals and objectives. Use of Title I funds for equipment for the project would not be considered supplanting. Use of Title I funds must comply with Title I requirements as well.

Evaluation

70. I would like to use the VISION 2020 evaluation toolkit and write it into our grant. Can you tell me more about it? Will it be free to school districts? What will it assess, in addition to the Teacher STaR Chart? Would it be considered an appropriate summative evaluation tool?

An evaluation toolkit will be provided at no charge to awarded applicants. The toolkit includes survey instruments and other tools to gather data at the beginning, midpoint and end of the grant period. The awarded applicants will be responsible for administering, collecting, assessing, analyzing and reporting the data results. An evaluator's conference via TETN videoconferencing system will be held after the grants have been awarded to discuss the evaluation toolkit. The awarded applicants will be required to use the evaluation toolkit and technical assistance will be provided.

71. Will applicants need to invest in an outside evaluator since we will be using the Evaluation Toolkit?

Yes. A professional evaluator is necessary to implement the survey instruments and analyze the data. The evaluator must be external to the grant. Large districts with an evaluation office may serve as the evaluator as long as they are external to and will function independently of the grant.

72. How much should be budgeted for the evaluation?

No more than 8% of the total grant is to be budgeted for evaluation since an evaluation toolkit will be provided free of charge.

73. How is using the evaluation toolkit binding under the NOGA if it is not available yet?

The toolkit will be provided upon award of NOGA and in time for the grant start date. (The district signs the application knowing that they must meet any additional evaluation requirements that TEA may require.)

74. Regarding evaluation, will grantees be required to submit regular evaluation reports like progress reports?

Grantees will report progress based on the performance measures indicated. There will be separate reporting time lines and guidelines for the evaluation.

Competitive Review of Grant Applications

75. Is there a stipend for the grant reviewers?

No stipends are awarded to reviewers of this grant.

76. How do you address changes in grant reviewers that have been submitted?

Submit an alternate name to Josh Thomas and be sure to label it as Alternate for the VISION 2020 Grant. Remember, you can send more than three names.

77. Do applicants send three reviewer names for every member district in a collaborative?

No, applicants will need to send a minimum of three reviewers for every grant application. Applicants may send more than three names.

78. How many grants will the three volunteer reviewers have to review? (There was some concern from a couple of them).

It depends on the number of reviewers and the number of applications received. Discretionary Grants typically assigns 3-5 grants to each reviewer.