



Computer Science PD Grant FAQ

Q: Who is eligible to apply?

A: All Maine school districts.

Q: When are applications due?

A: Applications for the fall window are due November 5th, 2021.

Q: When will applications be reviewed?

A: Applications will be reviewed in the order they are received. All applications will be reviewed within two weeks of the application due date.

Q: When will grant awards be made?

A: Grant awards will be made within two weeks of the application due date.

Q: Can a district submit more than one application?

A: Districts should attempt to submit one application; however additional applications may be considered.

Q: Can I use money to purchase equipment, software, licenses, etc.?

A: Equipment, software, licenses, etc. may be purchased when they are necessary to engage in the PD opportunity that is described in the grant application.

Q: Can I use money for catering PD events?

A: No.

Q: Can I use money for prizes, giveaways, or other swag for PD events?

A: No.

Q: Can I partner with a vendor, community organization, etc.?

A: Yes. When planning, keep in mind that PD opportunities must be teacher led or developed.

Q: Can I work with a vendor to get a discount on equipment, licenses, etc.?

A: Yes.

Q: Can grant money be used to reimburse the district for a similar project that meets the criteria, but is already ongoing?

A: No.

Q: Could covering the costs associated with a "Family Code Night," "Hour of Code," etc. be considered?

A: No.

Q: Can PD be made available for non-school staff that may be interested (leaders of clubs, youth groups, etc.)

A: The purpose of this grant is to provide PD for school staff.

Q: Does equipment purchased through the grant belong to the school hosting the PD or the individual organizing the PD (ex. If I change schools can I take the equipment with me)?

A: Any equipment purchased through the grant belongs to the school district that applies for the grant funds.

Q: Can the grant money be used to cover teacher stipends?

A: Grant money can be used to cover teacher stipends for teachers who are providing the PD.

Q: Are there any minimums for teacher numbers participating?

A: While there are no specified minimums, applications with higher impact are preferable.

Q: Will a district be disqualified if they already offer CS?

A: No. Priority will be given to applicants who do not currently offer CS, but applicants who already offer CS are still eligible.

Q: Is there a deadline for expending grant money?

A: Yes. Grant money must be expended by June 30, 2022.

Q: Can an individual teacher apply for grant money to pay for a CS-related course?

A: CS-related coursework could be included in an application, however the application must include plans to develop or lead a PD opportunity that is a result of the teacher participating in the CS-related course.

Q: How much preliminary information does an applicant need to include?

A: An application must include detail related to the PD that is planned within the grant application. Preliminary information in addition to this is welcome, but not required.

Q: Do the responses in the grant application have a maximum number of characters?

A: The responses in the application will allow an applicant to provide as much context as needed. Please try to be concise but make sure to include any information that is relevant to the application.

Q: Is the "audience" the teachers who will attend/participate in the PD?

A: Yes.

Q: It doesn't look like there is a place in the application for a timeline or goals. Am I missing something?

A: No. In an effort to make the application process accessible and , we've only requested exactly what we need to evaluate the applications and trust that school districts will establish and follow their own timelines and goals.

If a the PD provider is planning to present in a conference as a result of this PD, should that be included somewhere in the application?

Yes. This would be a great thing to include in the outcomes response.

Does the application save responses that an applicant can return to?

A: While some have had success returning to a partially filled form, our recommendation is to plan to complete the application in one sitting.

Q: What should I do if the superintendent is in a different location and cannot sign the form?

A: If the superintendent is not filling out the application and is unable to sign directly, please write a note in the final comment on the application stating the situation and ask the superintendent to send a statement of their approval of the application to emma-marie.banks@maine.gov

Additional questions and answers will be posted after each informational session.