

High Performance Schools Consortium

Applicant's Conference.

June 4, 2012

Texas Education Agency

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Consortium Website

www.tea.state.tx.us/Consortium

Consortium email address

Consortium@tea.state.tx.us

- Created by Senate Bill 1557, 82nd Texas Legislature (2011)
- Established a Consortium of up to 20 districts and open-enrollment charter schools, representing a range of district types, sizes, and diverse student populations
- To inform the governor, legislature, and commissioner of education regarding the transformation of public schools using innovative, next-generation learning standards, assessment, and accountability systems.

- The Consortium will address four principles:
- *Digital learning;*
- *Learning standards;*
- *Multiple assessments; and*
- *Local control*

Consortium participants will assist the commissioner in the development of a legislative proposal / reports which are to include recommendations by, performance of, and progress made by the Consortium to the governor and the legislature not later than December 1, 2012, and not later than December 1, 2014.

The purpose of this Request for Application (RFA) is to determine which eligible districts and open-enrollment charter schools are most qualified to serve as members of the Consortium and participate in the development of the legislative proposal and reports.

- The 2012 legislative report must include the following:
- Recommendations for legislative authorization to waive prohibitions, requirements, or restrictions affecting Consortium participants' ability to participate in the proposed plan; and
- A plan for an accountability system for Consortium participants that balances academic excellence and local values.

- **Number:** No more than 20 school districts, including open-enrollment charter schools
- **Characteristic:** high performing

- **Diversity:**

- *District Type* (See <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/acctres/analyze/1011/level.html>)
 - Urban - Major Urban and Other Central City;
 - Suburban - Major Suburban and Other Central City Suburban;
 - Non-metropolitan - Independent Town, Non-Metropolitan: Fast-Growing, and Non-Metropolitan: Stable; and
 - Rural
- *District Size:* (at least one district in each category)
 - Large district - 10,000 or more students;
 - Mid-size district - between 1,000 and 9,999; and
 - Small district - 999 or fewer.
- *Student Demographics:* (as a group, represents state student population)
 - Ethnicity and race;
 - Economically disadvantaged;
 - English language learners;
 - Students identified to receive special education services; and
 - Students identified as gifted and talented.

- A school district and its participating campus(es) must have received a rating of Academically Acceptable, Recognized, or Exemplary in 2010-11

- Either a school district or its participating campus(es) must have received either national, statewide, or regional public acknowledgement:
 - from an organization relying on expertise in the field of education,
 - for district-wide or campus-wide excellence in academic performance or innovative practices in one of the areas described by the Consortium principles.

- An open-enrollment charter school must have received an Exemplary rating in 2010-11
- Must be in compliance with the TEA audit requirements

Each application consists of two components

- ***Application Form***
- ***Program Narrative***

Program Narrative

- A. The strength of the applicant's experience related to the Consortium mission, including:
- Description of the applicant's past or current experience with and success in addressing the four Consortium principles;
 - Description of the applicant's future plans to address the four Consortium principles;

Program Narrative

- A. Strength of Applicant's Experience (continuation):
- Description of the public acknowledgment received;
 - Description of the applicant's experience in collaborating with other districts and/or the state in designing and implementing innovative initiatives; and
 - Description of any assessment(s) currently used or planned to be used to measure the quality of learning, including evidence of the accuracy of such assessment(s), as well as methodology and metrics employed.

Program Narrative

B. The quality of the proposed action plan, including:

- Description of 2-3 research-based recommendations (6-9 total recommendations) for consideration by the Consortium for innovation in each of the following areas:
 - 1) next-generation learning standards,
 - 2) assessments, and
 - 3) accountability systems

Program Narrative

B. Quality of proposed action plan, including (continuation):

- Detailed description of the curricular goals that the applicant is recommending the Consortium consider for inclusion in its legislative proposal; and
- Description of any waiver(s) for a prohibition, requirement, or restriction that the applicant is recommending the Consortium consider for inclusion in the legislative proposal.

Program Narrative

C. Quality of the project management, including:

- Names, titles, and qualifications of individuals who will be working on the Consortium project, including the point of contact; and
- Description of how stakeholders (i.e. teachers, parents, students, and community members) have been and will be involved with the planning and implementation of the project.

Program Narrative

D. The adequacy of resources committed to the project, including:

- Description of how resources will be provided to support teachers involved in work of the Consortium and
- Description of plans to seek gifts, grants, or donations from private or government sources to support the district's participation in the Consortium.

- Strength of District and Participating Campus Experience: 40 points
- Quality of Proposal / Action Plan: 25 points
- Quality of Management Component: 20 points
- Adequacy of Resources: 5 points
- Participant Diversity: 10 points
- TOTAL: 100 points

Sequence of Events

**All dates, except the final completion date, may vary slightly as conditions require.*

June 4, 2012	Applicants' Conference will be held via webinar at 2p.m. at https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/807443554
June 7, 2012	Last day to submit questions about the Consortium RFA to TEA. Email questions to: Consortium @tea.state.tx.us
June 11, 2012	FAQs published on Consortium website See: www.tea.state.tx.us/cosortium
June 29, 2012	Applications due. Completed applications must be <u>received at TEA no later than 5:00 p.m. June 29, 2012</u> in order to be considered for participation. August
August 2012	Districts or charters submitting applications by June 29, 2012 will be notified in writing of either selection or non-selection as a Consortium participant.

- Applications must be mailed or delivered to:
**High Performance Schools Consortium Manager,
Room 3-121
Texas Education Agency
William B. Travis Building
1701 North Congress Avenue
Austin, Texas 78701-1494**
- Applicants are required to submit a completed application by 5:00 p.m. on Friday June 29, 2012.

- A completed application includes the following components:
 - (1) One complete hard copy of the application form, including:
 - Part 1 with an original signature,
 - Parts 2 and 3,
 - (2) Required attachments
 - Executive Summary,
 - Program Narrative,
 - Additional Campus Demographic Tables (if necessary),
 - Commitment Letter (Program Guidelines, Appendix 2) with appropriate original signatures, and
 - Proof of Financial Stability.
 - (3) An electronic copy of the complete application in Word or PDF submitted on a CD or unencrypted USB drive.
 - (4) Application fee.

- The executive summary is limited to one page, single-spaced (front side only).
- The program narrative may not exceed thirty double-spaced pages (front side only).
- The executive summary and the program narrative must be submitted as two separate files in the electronic submission.

Eligibility

Question 1.1: Is there an eligibility list for participation in this program?

Response: No, there is not an eligibility list. Eligibility criteria are outlined in the “Eligibility for Participation” section of the Program Guidelines.

Eligibility

Question 1.2: Can districts submit joint applications with other districts?

Response: No. Each eligible district wishing to participate must submit its own application.

Eligibility

Question 1.3: Can an eligible district apply if some of its campuses are ineligible?

Response: In its application, a district must designate which campuses will participate in the consortium, should the district be selected. An applicant district is not required to include all campuses and may include only campuses that meet the outlined eligibility requirements.

Eligibility

Question 1.4: Can you clarify the distinction between a district applying, as opposed to one campus applying with respect to the difference in application fee and responsibilities?

Response: Districts may apply on behalf of one or more of their eligible campuses. Campuses are not eligible to apply independently. The application fee is \$500 for each district applicant, regardless of the number of participating campuses.

Expectations of Participating Districts

Question 2.1: What are the requirements and expectations of the selected districts?

Response: The requirements and expectations of selected districts are outlined in the Program Guidelines, TEC §7.0561 and TAC §102.1201. Generally-speaking, selected districts are expected to attend consortium meetings and collaborate on the development and subsequent implementation of required legislative proposal / records for submission to the Governor and legislature. Finally, districts will be expected to submit any progress reports requested by the Commissioner.

Expectations of Participating Districts

Question 2.2: What is the project period?

Response: Applicant districts are expected, at a minimum, to participate in the Consortium from the date of district selection, scheduled for August 2012, through the second statutory reporting deadline (December 2014). The legislation authorizing the Consortium expires in January 2018.

Expectations of Participating Districts

Question 2.3: Will districts need to reapply each year, and, if so, may we modify the campuses participating at reapplication?

Response: Currently, there are no plans for requiring districts to reapply each year. Requests to change participating campuses will be subject to Commissioner's approval and will be limited by statutory requirements to maintain diverse representation.

Application Requirements

Question 3.1: Can you provide clarification on the requirement that a school district or its participating campus(es) have received either national, statewide, or regional public acknowledgement?

Response: The requirement for national, state, or regional public acknowledgement should conform to the following specifications:

- Be awarded by an organization that relies on expertise in the education field
- Reflect district or campus accomplishments for academic excellence or innovative practices in the consortium principles

Application Requirements

Question 3.1 (Continuation): What are acceptable public acknowledgements

Response: There is no comprehensive list of such awards or public acknowledgements. This requirement was written broadly in order to allow a district to demonstrate its experience and expertise with the work to be performed by the consortium; however, examples of such awards or public acknowledgements may include, **but are not limited to:**

- Broad Prize
- Texas Business and Education Coalition Honor Roll Middle and High Schools
- Sylva Charp Award for District Innovation in Technology
- Magma award by American School Journal
- Quality Texas Foundation's Award for Performance Excellence
- Blue Ribbon School designation

Application Requirements

Question 3.1 (continuation): Is there a limitation on the award date of the public recognition?

Response: There is no limitation on the award date for any public recognition the applicant wishes to include. However, acknowledgements reflecting recent achievements are stronger evidence of the applicant's suitability for participation in the consortium.

Application Requirements

Question 3.2: Are curricular goals limited to the core content areas?

Response: Neither legislation nor rule limits curricular goals to the core content areas.

Application Requirements

Question 3.3: Are the learning outcomes for the curricular goals to be based on the high priority learning standards a district has worked on, or are they to be based on the next generation learning standards described in section 2a of the program guidelines?

Response: Curricular goals recommended by the applicant to be considered for inclusion in Consortium's legislative proposal should be grounded in research and based on the applicant's experience and outcomes. Curricular goals may address both high priority learning standards as well as next-generation learning standards.

Exemptions

Question 4.1: Please clarify the request and receipt of assessment and accountability waivers for Consortium participants.

Response: Each applicant's plan must include a description of any waiver(s) of existing prohibitions, requirements, or restrictions that the district believes is needed in order to successfully implement innovative practices that will form the basis for a next-generation assessment and accountability system. The Consortium will consider these waiver recommendations for inclusion in the legislative proposal to be presented to the legislature in December 2012.

Funding

Question 5.1: Will selected districts receive grant funding for participating in the Consortium?

Response: The statute creating the Consortium was not designed to provide funding to districts. However, the statute does allow districts to accept gifts, grants, or donations from any source, including a private or public entity.

Funding

Question 5.2: Will smaller districts be required to pay the same amount of fees to participate as larger districts?

Response: All districts must pay the \$500 application fee to submit an application. In addition, districts that are selected to participate in the consortium will be required to pay a participation fee of from \$2,500 to \$10,000 (minus the application fee) depending upon size factors such as the number of campuses participating

Question: Will each district implement its own separate accountability plan or will all districts implement the same one?

Response: The purpose of the Consortium was to bring together a group of high performing schools to collaborate on the design of a new generation accountability plan. Districts will not be implementing separate plans.

We will give you a few minutes to type any remaining questions you may have before we close.

Remember – after the webinar you may submit additional questions to:

Consortium@tea.state.tx.us

THANK YOU!