



ISD Regional Staffing Grant Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. Q: Must the funds be applied to only one full-time-equivalent staff position?

A: No. The grant award may be used to support more than one staff position as long as the portion of a staff person's time funded by the grant is dedicated solely to the required activities of the grant.

2. Q: Can the funds be used to support existing staff position(s)?

A: Yes. Grant funds may be used to supporting existing staff positions, provided that the activities of those staff persons funded by the grant are directly related to the required activities of the grant.

3. Q: Will these funds be ongoing?

A: It is unclear whether additional funds will be available in subsequent fiscal years. As established in the FY2016 State Aid budget, these are one-time funds. However, the Executive Budget Recommendation for FY2017 includes ongoing funds to support the implementation of educator evaluations, which would include this grant program. Thus, this question can only be answered definitively with the action of the legislature and governor to finalize the FY2017 state budget.

4. Q: When will funds be awarded?

A: Funds will be awarded in the state aid payment on June 20, 2016. Applications are due May 30, 2016.

5. Q: What are the expectations for collaboration between funded staff and the MDE?

A: Funded staff will be expected to participate in regular meetings (face-to-face and/or electronically) with MDE staff in order to develop common understanding of various terms, definitions, and processes to support high-quality local evaluation systems within districts and across the state. Funded staff will be expected to deliver and reinforce this collaborative work within their regions.

6. Q: Is there a specific number of days/months required for MDE meetings or trainings for the position?

A: No, there is not a number of required days/hours/months required. The expectation for the first year of the grant is that the funded staff work with our MDE consultant (to be hired within the next couple of months) to determine what is needed and appropriate and establish more definitive guidelines for future years.

7. Q: May unexpended funds be carried over to future fiscal years?

A: Yes. Please see the chart below for information on carry-over.

	15-16	Carryover	16-17	Carryover
State FY (Funds Available)	Oct. 1, 2015-Sept. 30, 2016	Oct. 1, 2016-June 30, 2017	Oct. 1, 2016-Sept. 30, 2017	Oct. 1, 2017-June 30, 2018
District FY (for contracts)	Jan 1. 2016-June 30, 2016	July 1, 2016-Dec. 31, 2016	Jan. 1, 2017-June 30, 2017	July 1, 2017-Dec. 31, 2017