



MiSTEM Playbook Pilot Grant Technical Assistance

03/30/2021

Frequently Asked Questions

Additional Questions

If you have any additional questions, please [submit online to MiSTEM](#)

Eligibility

- 1. Can one school within a district apply if it is the only one currently implementing 3P?**

Yes, one school within a district could apply.

- 2. Is this grant available to nonpublic school teachers?**

No, MiSTEM Network cannot grant dollars to nonpublic districts and this grant is a district grant (not an individual teacher grant). Playbook resources will be made publicly available later in the year that private school teachers may be interested in for place-, project, problem-based (3-P) learning approaches.

- 3. Should we bother to apply if we have been attempting 3P, but have fallen short developing partnerships up to this point?**

Yes, you never know how many will apply for the grant. The purpose of the grant is to support existing 3-P initiatives and allow our team to understand the successes and barriers you face. MiSTEM needs to understand at the local level to formulate support, resources and pathways to help each school/district move forward with this approach. We recommend connecting with your MiSTEM director to discuss ideas and support. Find your local MiSTEM Region Director through our state website - https://www.michigan.gov/leo/0,5863,7-336-94421_81797_103605---,00.html

- 4. Who can apply? Classroom, school district? Team or one person?**

Local Education Agency (LEA) or Public School Academy (PSA) can apply. The school has to be the fiscal, we cannot transfer funds directly to individuals.

5. **Is an ISD eligible to apply for the Playbook Pilot grant, wasn't sure if they'd be eligible because it says LEA?**

LEAs and PSAs are eligible to apply for this grant. An ISD can participate as an educational consortium member with their PSA or LEA.

6. **The application asks for the *Demographic of Community Served by Organization. One of the districts that I am working with asked how the answer to that question will factor into the selection process. The district is primarily suburban and they are interested to know if the grant is going to focus on urban districts. Is there an outline of a rubric that has been developed that could be posted? an ISD eligible to apply for the Playbook Pilot grant, wasn't sure if they'd be eligible because it says LEA?**

We encourage all entities doing innovative place-, problem-, project-based learning approaches to apply for the grant. You never know how many applicants come forward, so put your name in the hat. MiSTEM will balance funding across diverse sites looking at urban, suburban, rural; region of Michigan; grades targeted (elementary, middle, high school); socioeconomic status and other demographic factors; and school format (traditional public, public charter). For more information on the selection criteria refer to page-5 of the RFP.

Playbook Grant Activities

7. **What does it mean to participate in user experiences?**

In this pilot year, a very important goal for the MiSTEM Playbook is to gather information from schools/districts that have a track record of implementing 3-P learning approaches. During the "user experience" activities, awardees will work with our MiSTEM team and authors to walk through hands-on review activities of drafted playbooks. From the "User Perspective" you will provide critiques and suggested inputs and to let us know what is missing in the playbook. Strong candidates will have something to teach the MiSTEM team about methods for establishing and supporting this 3-P practice. The user experience will introduce you to new 3-P learning resources as you participate in product design while also learning best practices from other Michigan districts.

8. **I don't fully understand what playbooks are, can you explain?**

The MiSTEM Playbook is a step by step guide with resources, implementation tools, examples of exemplar schools and more that will help schools/districts begin to implement innovative project-, problem-, or place-based Learning

strategies. The intention is to help districts understand how to move beyond compliance while incorporating these transformative practices.

Current draft playbooks include place-based education, computer science and community and everyday settings, with other topics in development. The playbook models allow for the coexistence of student and community voice and choice and intentionally incorporate career exploration opportunities. While these efforts tend to exist in elective, extracurricular or out-of-school programming for youth, MiSTEM advocates that the formal system needs to support a shift toward this approach. MiSTEM has an opportunity and responsibility to help districts shift to using 3-P practices that allow for a more accessible and flexible learning experience to meet the changing needs of students and communities across our state and better prepare more Michigan students for career success in our rapidly changing economy. Recent changes to traditional norms and basic classroom structures that organize public education have been upended due to the COVID-19 pandemic. MiSTEM seeks to cultivate a STEM culture in K-12 classrooms by engaging with local communities, creating collaborative partnerships with business, industry and nonprofits, and engaging families to support a student-centered 3-P learning approach.

9. Will governance be included in the process when applying for the pilot grant?

Yes, this is a main component of playbook development and all grantees will be given the opportunity to provide reviews, critiques and more as part of the “User Experience” process.

10. In the presentation slide about local control and credentialing, that made me think about testing waivers from MDE. Is there a way to connect P-3 learning and portfolio’s or other alternative assessments instead of M-STEP?

What we are trying to encourage through playbooks would be to show other indicators of quality or measures of success being done through 3-P strategies. MDE is always looking for ways to conduct assessments. Federal summative assessments do need to be followed. MDE is currently working with Michigan Assessment Consortium on different assessments.

If you have an innovative assessment and would like to share it with MDE, contact Jeff McNeal, MDE Education Consultant, mcnealj1@michigan.gov

Consortium Members

11. How do you differentiate between community partners and non-educational partners?

If community partners are not an IHE or LEA, then even if education is part of their main mission, they wouldn't be "coded" by the state as an education entity.

12. The application asks you to first list your community partners, and then it asks you to list a non-educational partner. Do I need a community partner that is an educational entity outside of my district?

No, you do not need an educational community partner, this is optional. Clarity on application will indicate that if you're working with higher education or other education partners this is an opportunity for you to list them.

The non-education community partner question will indicate that you include a community/ business /nonprofit organization as part of your consortium. A consortium is a requirement of the grant application.

13. What is the expectation for the level of participation of the non-educational partner? (i.e. financial, materials)

First thing we are looking for in your proposal submission is if you have a community partner. Next, the level of expectation and engagement could be anything such as funds or materials, however, preferably the community partner is helping to sustain the 3P learning efforts within the community and contributing to make the learning relevant and authentic for the students.

Budget

14. Would the dollars from this grant be used to scale up 3P or implement the playbook, specifically? What can the dollars be used for?

The dollars may be spent how the district wishes--it is money to help commit the time of the school and partners, it is our "thank you" for conducting a critical review of the playbooks, providing feedback, and sharing your historical journey for development into an exemplar story that can be shared in the MiSTEM Playbook.

Webinar

15. Where is the information about the webinar?

All information and the slide presentation can be found at https://www.michigan.gov/leo/0,5863,7-336-94421_81797_81856_103883---,00.html

Other

16. I have photos and videos to share but do you have a photo release. If we made it through the process how do I share these materials?

All information will be collected through our MiSTEM playbook design team and we'll ensure each grantee will have the appropriate waiver forms for data and information collection. This process will be explained during the professional development workshop when the project gets underway.

17. As a teacher I headed up the building of an outdoor learning habitat at the learning center (at the preschool) and it has been well received. Would like to build another outdoor learning center at our elementary for older kids. Would this be a good candidate for the Playbook Pilot Grant?

Yes, you never know how many will apply for the pilot grants. Here are some considerations for this pilot grant. An important goal for MiSTEM is to gather information about schools/districts that have implemented project-, problem-, placed-based (3-P) learning approaches. Strong candidates will have something to teach MiSTEM and state agencies about methods for establishing and supporting this practice.

For example:

- *How they have supported teacher training needs in content or 3-P pedagogy*
- *How they have addressed any barriers to robust 3-P education originating in school policies (for example – teachers often lack time for collaborative planning or face barriers to taking students off campus)*
- *How they have dedicated internal resources to support the 3-P education approach*

If the schools does not have an established practice, and a story to tell about how they started and have begun to institutionalize this practice, the application

will face some challenges in meeting the selection criteria and, therefore, in rising to the top. It is the intent of MiSTEM to learn from sites that have this practice established so that they may provide guidance to other schools/districts lacking an established practice on useful strategies, supports, and methods.