2019-20 SAT and ACT Preparation Expansion Grant Competition

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

The Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) has prepared the following FAQs regarding the SAT and ACT Preparation Expansion Grant to assist eligible applicants in the completion of the application based on questions submitted by interested applicants. The page references refer to the Request for Applications (RFA) posted on the College and Career Readiness website.

These are the responses to the questions received by May 29, 2019 at 11:59 p.m.

Q1.	When does SAT Preparation have to happen? Does it have to be a pull out?	
A1.	The SAT Preparation coursework must occur during the school day. Programming should not negatively impact a student's schedule or ability to complete graduation requirements or core coursework. For example, if the applicant's model proposes embedding the SAT preparation materials into an existing course, the concepts and strategies should be presented throughout the regular course instruction and not require students to exit the class to receive additional or different instruction for SAT preparation.	See page 5 of the RFA -Section III Program Design Requirements: SAT and ACT Preparation Program Implementation (FY20)
Q2.	While OSSE is awarding a per pupil funding model for the school program, do the school programs have to provide the same number of test prep hours to all students? For example, if a test preparation provider wanted to do a session with seniors before the October SAT School Day that total five hours per senior for 50 seniors, and wanted to do a longer test prep course for juniors before the March SAT School Day that total 20 hours per junior for 50 juniors, is that possible?	
A2.	The program may provide variable number of hours. Test preparation providers and partner LEAs should develop a plan that fits the needs of their student population.	See page 3 of the RFA - Section I: Overview and Program Goals
Q3.	Does a school have to participate in SAT School Day to apply for the SAT [Prep] Grant?	
A3.	Yes. The original intention of the SAT Preparation Expansion Grant was to prepare students to take the SAT examination in high school. This grant is related to the passage of the "Raising the Expectations for	See page 3 of the RFA

	Education Outcomes Omnibus Act of 2012," effective June 19, 2012 (D.C. Law 19-142, D.C. Official Code § 38-752.01 et seq.) which requires each student attending public high school to take the SAT or American College Testing (ACT) exam before graduating. For these reasons, the SAT and ACT Preparation Expansion Grant is currently offered in tandem with DC's SAT School Day.	- Section I: Overview and Program Goals
Q4.	**Is there a hard cap of $125 for each student at each school, or does it just need to average out to a max of $125/student at each school?**	
A4.	Each applicant may build a budget request that reflects a cost of up to $125 per student. For example, if an applicant plans to service 100 students by offering professional development for teachers at a cost of $5,000 for 75 students and an applicant-provider taught course for 25 students at a cost of $7,500, then the total request amount would be $12,500. **This total amount would be allowable because it aligns with the per student maximum.**	See page 7 of the RFA -Section VII: Budget
Q5.	**Is it expected to receive enough funding to offer an applicant-taught course for a semester or year (there by the equivalent of a full time employee (FTE) for a course)?**	
A5.	Each applicant is responsible for determining the appropriate staffing model for the programming they propose. However, based on the funding available (see below), it is unlikely that an award would cover the cost of an FTE. "OSSE will provide a total of $36,000 for professional development, planning, and program implementation (starting Aug. 1, 2019), and $364,000 in funding for implementation of programs (starting Oct. 1, 2019)," for a **total of $400,000 across both fiscal years to between all applicants**. Please see A4 regarding requirements for per student costs. In addition, "Partnerships that use teacher/leader professional development to reach as many students as possible will receive priority points on the evaluation rubric."	See page 6 and 7 of the RFA -Section VII: Budget -Section IV: Additional Program Requirements - Priority Areas
Q6.	**Is it possible to use a Memorandum of Intent (MOI) letter instead of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) until after the award funding is complete?**	
A6.	Each applicant must submit a "Signed Partnership Agreement between test preparation company and LEA, detailing roles and responsibilities, contact information, data sharing authorization, etc." A template is on the SAT and ACT Preparation Expansion Grant website. An applicant may use a different document, but it must include at minimum the same components as the template. Please note, this is a competitive application process and full funding for the applicant's request is not guaranteed. **The Partnership Agreement may include language, which indicates the number of students served**	See page 8 of RFA -Section VIII: Application Submission Logistics

	may be reduced, based on the final award amount. However, prior to the start of any programming a roster must be provided.	
Q7.	What are the LEAs that have not historically participated in this grant?	
A7.	OSSE does not track LEAs that did not participate, however, in the 2018-19 school year the following LEAs were in partnership agreements served by the SAT Preparation Expansion Grant: • Capital City Public Charter School (PCS) • District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS) • EL Haynes PCS • Friendship PCS • IDEA PCS • Maya Angelou PCS • National Collegiate Preparatory PCS • Richard Wright PCS • SEED PCS • Somerset PCS • Thurgood Marshall Academy PCS • Washington Latin PCS • Washington Leadership Academy PCS You may find information about all secondary credential-granting LEAs on the DC School Report Card site which lists all LEAs in the District of Columbia.	See page 166 of "Responses to OSSE FY18 Performance Oversight Hearing"
Q8.	Is there information publicly available about which prep companies are working with which schools in the District?	
A8.	Yes, you may find which test preparation providers worked with LEAs during the 2018-19 school year in OSSE's FY18 Performance Oversight Hearing Responses on page 166. Please note, there may be other eligible test preparation providers that may apply that were not previous recipients.	See page 166 of "Responses to OSSE FY18 Performance Oversight Hearing"
Q9.	How have schools learned about this funding opportunity and the new requirements related to the grant (funding availability and per student limit)?	
A9.	This grant opportunity's Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) was posted initially in the DC Register two weeks prior to the application opening. The RFA was released on OSSE's website on May 3, 2019. In addition, the SAT and ACT Preparation Expansion grant was published three times in the LEA Look Forward, which is OSSE's main communication mechanism to schools.	See "LEA Look Forward for April 24-30, 2019"
Q10.	Is there any data available on effectiveness of different prep companies? For example, which companies have successfully helped students raise their SAT scores? Is there any reports or evaluation done to show which option has been most effective in helping raise SAT scores for students? Is there any research connected with the grant program to demonstrate the effectiveness of different SAT prep strategies with DC students?	

A10.	LEAs who are potentially partnering with a test preparation provider should speak directly to test preparation providers or conduct an independent review of available research. Companies have data on their overall effectiveness.
	To learn about DC students' current SAT participation and performance, please review the DC School Report Cards.
	OSSE is unable to provide information on any potential applicant(s) because that might influence partnerships available to the test preparation providers, which is not allowed due to the competitive nature of this grant competition. OSSE serves a neutral and impartial party in the administration of this grant.