

**OFFICE OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION**

**NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY (NOFA)**

**Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24) Flexible Scheduling Pilot Program Grant**

Request for Application (RFA) Release Date: **Dec. 15, 2023 at 12:00 p.m.**

As authorized by the [Flexible Schedule Emergency Amendment Act of 2023](#) (DC Law 13-176, §7k as added by DC Law 25-50, Sec. 4183(b); DC Code § 38-2617), the District of Columbia's Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE), Division of Teaching and Learning (TAL), will solicit grant applications for the Flexible Scheduling Pilot Program Grant. This grant is supported by local funds to help bolster student achievement by implementing flexible schedules that support the retention of the District's high-quality, effective and diverse educators (principals, assistant principals, teachers, assistant teachers, paraprofessionals, school psychologists or counselors, all school service providers, or any person who provides professional education services or education psychological services at a school). "Flexible schedule" is defined as a scheduling arrangement that allows for variation in the instructional calendar and format on a daily or weekly basis while continuing to provide academic instruction to students. Through this grant, OSSE seeks to advance both targeted student social and academic support and holistic staff retention initiatives.

Funds will be awarded to at least one and up to six District of Columbia local education agencies (LEAs). In the event of multiple grantees, OSSE will ensure funds are distributed proportionately across wards according to student enrollment. Priority consideration will be given to applications that prioritize 1) elementary and middle schools and 2) schools demonstrating higher-than-average teacher attrition (or teacher attrition rates that are higher than 2022-23 school year rates according to OSSE's most recent [District of Columbia Educator Retention data](#)).

Any District LEA that receives these grant funds must use them to implement a flexible scheduling pilot program that continues to provide high-quality, rigorous academic instruction to students while also providing educators (as defined above) with additional time to engage in professional development, continuing education, course planning, collaboration, wellness and other similar activities.

**Eligibility and Selection Criteria:** Eligible applicants are DC public or public charter LEAs. OSSE/TAL will prioritize applicants that:

1. Serve students in the elementary and middle grade levels.
2. Demonstrate higher-than-average teacher attrition (or teacher attrition rates that are higher than 2022-23 school year rates according to OSSE's most recent [District of Columbia Educator Retention data](#)).

OSSE will make funds available through a competitive process. Applications submitted on time that meet all eligibility and application requirements will be reviewed, scored, and rated on the following categories: (1) Executive Summary of Needs; (2) Program Features; (3) Program

Implementation and Monitoring; (4) Financial Management and Sustainability; and (5) Enabling Conditions.

Eligible applicants must attend the mandatory pre-application webinar on **Friday, Dec. 15, 2023**.

**Length of Award:** This is a two-year grant. The initial award period is from the date of the award to September 30, 2024. The applicant will be required to complete a continuation application to receive funds in the second year. Awards in the second year are contingent on the following:

- Continued availability of funding;
- Recipient's implementation and operation of the program as described in the approved application;
- Recipient(s)' demonstration that substantial progress has been made toward meeting the objectives set forth in the approved application, based on ongoing monitoring of the recipient and reporting from the recipient;
- Compliance with District and federal laws, regulations and guidance; and
- Appropriate expenditure of funds throughout each grant award period.

**Available Funding for Awards:** The total funding available for this award period is approximately \$1,200,000. OSSE plans to make two to six awards. Awards will range from \$200,000 to \$600,000. Grant funds shall only be used to support the implementation of flexible scheduling as authorized by the relevant statute and included in the applicant's submission.

**Application Process:** The grant described in this NOFA will be awarded competitively. A panel or panels of external reviewers will be convened to review, score, and rank each application. The review panel(s) will be composed of neutral, qualified, professional individuals selected for their expertise, knowledge, and/or related experiences. All external reviewers must sign a Conflict of Interest statement, confirming that they have no conflicts of interest in this process. The application will be scored against a rubric and each application will have at least three external reviewers to ensure accurate scoring. Upon completion of the panel review, the panel shall make recommendations for awards. These recommendations will consist of the rank order of scored applications. The State Superintendent of Education, or his/her designee, will consider those recommendations, but all final award decisions are left to the Superintendent's, or his/her designee's, discretion. There are no appeal rights for denied applicants.

Applications must be submitted no later than Wednesday, **Jan. 31, 2024** at **3:00 p.m.** through the [Enterprise Grants Management System \(EGMS\)](#). Applications must be completed in EGMS. Please allow additional time for any issues you may experience in EGMS, as well as the consistency check to run, prior to application submission. OSSE anticipates notifying applicants of their award status by Tuesday, Mar. 5, 2024; however, this date may change.

The RFA will be available online on OSSE's Flexible Scheduling Pilot Grant [webpage](#) and the [District's Grants Clearinghouse](#).

OSSE's Division of Teaching and Learning will host a mandatory pre-application webinar on **Friday, Dec. 15, 2023**. Please use the following [link](#) to access the webinar.

The RFA also includes a notice of intent to apply. The notice of intent to apply submission deadline is **Dec. 19, 2023**. Please submit notices of intent to apply to the contact information listed below.

For additional information regarding this competition, please contact:

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