

The Nebraska Department of Education is requesting proposals for the Nebraska Mathematics and Science Partnerships (MSP) grant competition.

The purpose of this competition is to fund statewide project(s) for innovative teacher professional development that improves the academic achievement of Nebraska students in mathematics or science.

Each partnership must initially include one high-need Nebraska school district (all others will be identified in cooperation with Nebraska Department of Education after the grant award); an engineering, mathematics or science department of a four-year institution of higher education; and a teacher education department of a four-year institution of higher education.

Other partners are encouraged to participate. The Nebraska MSP grant program is authorized under Title II, Part B of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as amended by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001.

Statewide competitive grants must address both of the following emphases: 1) implement model professional development opportunities that address mathematics or science content aligned with the Nebraska standards and utilize effective instructional strategies, and 2) build a network for mathematics or science teachers across the state that must replicate “building a presence,” utilize technology and establish cadres for instructional leadership to deliver ongoing professional development on a regional basis.

Subject to the availability of federal funds for the 2013 statewide MSP grant competition, approximately \$700,000 will be available to fund year one of the three-year statewide grants.

Projects previously funded will compete again for the available funds in years two and three, subject to availability of federal funds, an annual review of and successful attainment of project objectives and timely completion of reporting requirements.

It is anticipated that two statewide projects—one in mathematics and one in science—will be awarded. However, final funding decisions will be based on the quality of the proposals received and the results of an external grant review. At least 10 percent of the amount of grant funds requested must be earmarked for statewide evaluation activities.

The postmark deadline for the 2013 statewide MSP grant competition is Feb. 11, 2013. The grant application, requirements and other information are available on the Nebraska Department of Education web site at: <http://www.education.ne.gov/msp/>.

For additional information, contact Jan Handa, grants manager for the Mathematics and Science Partnership, at: jan.handa@nebraska.gov or 402.471.0876.