**Joint Questions and Answers Document:**

**FY26 FC589 Civics Teaching and Learning Grant and FC215 Genocide Education Grant (see below)**

**Applicable to Both Grants: Questions About Curriculum Data Reporting**

1. **Is curriculum data reporting a requirement for the Genocide Education Grant and/or the Civics Teaching and Learning Grant?**

Yes. In order to be eligible for these grants, LEAs must have completed their Curriculum Data reporting. As of Fall 2024, this includes reporting curriculum data for History/Social Science for Grades 3-8 and high school US History I.

1. **My district updated our history/social science curriculum data. When will this information be available on the DESE website?**

Due to a small unforeseen delay in updating the curriculum data portal, the history/social science data is not currently publicly visible on the DESE website. By January 24, we will post a list of LEAs that have reported their history/social science curriculum data on our [History, Social Science, and Civics](https://www.doe.mass.edu/instruction/hss/) website. If you would like to check that your data was reported correctly prior to this date, please email Craig Waterman at [craig.a.waterman@mass.gov](mailto:craig.a.waterman@mass.gov). Regardless, the delay will not impact the grant application process for any LEA.

1. **By when does my district need to report curriculum data in order to be eligible for these grants?**

Curriculum data must be reported by the grant deadline (February 28).

**FY26 Civics Teaching and Learning Grant (FC589):**

**Questions and Answers**

[**Link to RFP**](https://www.doe.mass.edu/grants/2026/0589/)

1. **Is this a multi-year grant?**

While historically the Civics Teaching and Learning Grant has been multi-year (i.e. able to be extended into the following fiscal year), this year’s grant is a one-year grant only. LEAs must expend their funds by June 30, 2026.

1. **What are the relative weights of the various competitive priorities for this grant?**

Each competitive priority is given the same weight within the scorecard. As such, a district that is eligible for one competitive priority will receive the same additional points as a district that is eligible for another. If districts are eligible for more than one competitive priority, they will receive cumulative additional points.

1. **In the grant criteria that says, “If funds are being used to support curriculum implementation in grades K-8, curricular materials must either be** [**Investigating History**](https://www.doe.mass.edu/investigatinghistory) **or be among those listed as highlighted materials in DESE's** [***K-12 History/Social Science Curricular Materials Guide***](https://www.doe.mass.edu/rlo/instruction/k-12-hss/index.html#/)**.”**

**However, it also says, “This grant may fund projects within one or more of the following categories: Purchase and/or development of curricular materials intended to further students' civic knowledge, skills, and dispositions *at any grade level*.”**

**Since the word “development” was included as an option, could you confirm for me that a “developed” product would be one that is created and not required to be selected from the preapproved list…that a district could qualify to use the grant to partner with a company to create a standards-aligned custom resource, tailored to their community?**

Curricular materials funded by the grant for grades K-8 must either be [Investigating History](https://www.doe.mass.edu/investigatinghistory) or among those listed in the [K-12 History/Social Science Curricular Materials Guide](https://www.doe.mass.edu/rlo/instruction/k-12-hss/index.html#/), as listed above. However, curricular materials for high school may be selected or developed from resources beyond this guide. LEAs should utilize the [Social Studies Curricular Materials Rubric](https://www.doe.mass.edu/rlo/instruction/k-12-hss/assets/WqMl-C/Social%20Science%20Curricular%20Materials%20Rubric.pdf) to guide the evaluation of their materials.

1. **Can multiple LEAs apply for the Civics Teaching and Learning Grant together with one LEA acting as the fiscal agent?**

Yes. LEAs may apply for a grant together and should select the size tier that aligns to their total student count. In such a case, LEAs should indicate in the project description that they plan to work across LEAs and should detail the nature of this partnership.

1. **If my district applies for the One8 Foundation Investigating History Grant, will it impact the scoring process for the Civics Teaching and Learning Grant?**

No. LEAs will not be scored differently if they apply for the One8 Foundation Grant. However, the DESE team will communicate with One8 prior to making awards to ensure that we are not funding the same grant activities.

Example: An LEA applies for the One8 Foundation Grant and the DESE Civics Teaching and Learning Grant. Both grant applications include funds for Investigating History professional learning. However, the DESE grant application also includes funds to support civics project implementation. DESE communicates with the One8 Foundation and learns that the LEA has been awarded the One8 grant. As such, the LEA becomes ineligible for DESE funding for the Investigating History professional learning. However, their One8 award does not affect the scoring for the rest of their grant application. They are awarded the DESE grant to support civics project implementation.

1. **Can the Civics Teaching and Learning Grant be used to print Investigating History materials?**

Yes, this is allowable, given that the overall grant application is aligned to the stated priorities of the grant.

1. **Is this grant open to independent schools?**

No, the Civics Teaching and Learning Grant is not open to independent schools.

**FY26 Genocide Education Grant (FC215a):**

**Questions and Answers**

[**Link to RFP**](https://www.doe.mass.edu/grants/2026/0215/)

1. **Are LEAs eligible to apply if they were awarded grants during the last cycle. If they are still eligible, will the fact that they were past grantees hurt their chances?**
   1. LEAs that have not previously been awarded a Genocide Education Grant will receive competitive priority. Each competitive priority is given the same weight within the scorecard. Districts are encouraged to apply regardless of their eligibility for competitive priorities.
2. **How do partnerships work?**
   1. LEAs and partner organization collaborate on a project that best fits the need of the LEA. The LEA submits a proposal citing the organization as their partner and including a scope of work.
3. **Can vendor partners provide direct service to students?**
   1. Yes, LEAs can submit proposals that include enrichment activities for student participation.
4. **Within the RFP, the community partnership priority refers to relevant organizations and/or engage local community members. What is local and relevant- Community Partnerships?**
   1. In describing the partnership, grant writers should be specific about the relevance of their partner organization to genocide education. In addition, any work with local community members should be aligned with project goals and described clearly in the proposal.
5. [**Chapter 98 of the Acts of 2021**](https://malegislature.gov/Laws/SessionLaws/Acts/2021/Chapter98) **calls for genocide education to be provided in middle and high school. Does the grant allow for programming at the elementary level?**
   1. This grant supports LEAs to develop and/or select curriculum materials, implement professional development, and design other enriching learning experiences intended to further secondary students’ understanding of the history and patterns of genocide.
6. **Are there other ways to partner with DESE to support Genocide Education?**
   1. To support Genocide Education, please work directly with LEAs. If opportunities arise to collaborate directly with the Department, information will be shared.
7. **Will grants that are submitted collaboratively by multiple districts and community partners be accepted?**
   1. Yes. LEAs may apply for a grant together and should select the size tier that aligns to the total student count.
8. **The Genocide Ed Law calls for genocide education to be provided in middle and high school. Does the grant allow for programming at the elementary level?**
   1. Elementary activities are not specifically precluded by the grant (so, they are allowable). However, grant applications should still speak to how the activities support the goals of the genocide education legislation.
9. **With the curriculum for 7th grade being Ancient World, and 8th grade being Civics, where can the middle school requirement for genocide education fit in with the History/Social Science Framework?**
   1. The definition of genocide and the goals for genocide education instruction are defined within the genocide education [legislation](https://malegislature.gov/Laws/SessionLaws/Acts/2021/Chapter98). As such, we recommend reviewing these materials alongside the History/Social Science Framework when making determinations about your curriculum at the middle school level. For more support in addressing this question in your particular context, please sign up for [office hours](https://outlook.office365.com/book/HistorySocialScienceGrantOfficeHours@massgov.onmicrosoft.com/).