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FY 24 CS Engage Grant (FC 126) FAQ

This document provides additional information for districts interested in applying for the FY2024: Computer Science (CS) Engage Grant. You may also view the CS Engage Information Session recording on the STEM Grants and Opportunities page.

1. **Teachers in the grant program would be taking an intro to computer science class in June 2024. I am curious as to what that computer science class is. I am a big advocate of an intro to computer science class that is not just programming. I also wondered if you were going to use ECS [Exploring Computer Science]?**
   The Intro to Computer Science course is a 3-day class with one workshop offered for elementary teachers and another offered for middle and high school teachers. It is not a specific curriculum such as ECS. It is a course that introduces teachers to various computer science concepts, in addition to programming. For example, it introduces teachers to patterns, abstraction, algorithms, IP addresses, how the internet works, as well as other topics.

2. **Is the funding for the grant derived from the state budget? If not, what other funding sources are braided into it?**
   This funding is from Chapter 268: AN ACT RELATING TO ECONOMIC GROWTH AND RELIEF FOR THE COMMONWEALTH and is detailed under "7009-6601". No other funding sources are being used at this time.

3. **Under the funding section, it says that approximately $1.2 million is available for this cohort. In the first sentence of this section, it says that approximately $80,000 is available. Is that the anticipated individual allotment for the planning grants?**
   The CS Engage grant is a 3-year grant. Each year there will be varying funding amounts available based on the activities for that fiscal year. In the first fiscal year 2024, there is $80,000 available for *all* districts, not per district. Over the course of the 3 years, it is anticipated that there will be a total of $1.2 million available for *all* districts, not per district.

4. **I am wondering how many districts will be funded and what the max funding request is per district for the initial grant. I was unsure if the $80,000 was per district or if it would be split between districts.**
   The number of districts funded, and for how much, will be determined by the number of districts that apply. The grant has allotted $80,000 for the first year of the 3-year grant. This is a total for *all* districts and not per district. The first year is a planning period and, therefore, does not require as much funding as subsequent grant years.

5. **Are vocational schools an allowable recipient of FC126?**
   Yes, Massachusetts public vocational schools are eligible for FC126.

6. **Is there a recording of [the CS Engage] info session available?**
   Yes, the recording and associated slides are available on the STEM Grants and Opportunities page.

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7. **Could you please clarify the license that the teacher must have to participate in the grant? For example, does Instructional Technology cover the requirement?**
There are two activities for which teachers/educators may engage in the grant:

   1) As part of the district team workshops to develop a Digital Literacy and Computer Science Implementation Plan. This teacher may be selected by the district as anyone who has DLCS content knowledge and can support the team in a) developing a DLCS pathway K-12 for the district and b) providing subject expertise while selecting a curriculum that will help the district in meeting the DLCS Framework standards. We are not requiring a specific license; we are asking for DLCS content knowledge.

   2) Taking part in the summer curriculum professional development. Educators attending the summer curriculum PD should be either a) a coach / leader who will support teachers on the curriculum or b) appropriately licensed to teach the curriculum to students during the school year.

8. **Are educational collaboratives eligible to apply?**
Yes, Massachusetts public educational collaborative schools are eligible to apply for FC126.

9. **Is it correct that my district is ineligible to apply for the CS Engage Grant due to the fact that we participated in three years of funding through the DL NOW grant?**
This is correct. The DLCS Implementation grants (DL Now and CS Engage) are 3-year grants to assist districts in developing a DLCS Implementation Plan for grades K-12. If a district received a DL Now grant, their eligible years for the CS Engage Grant will be prorated. A district that received 3 years of the DL Now grant is ineligible for the CS Engage grant.

10. **Some of my staff are in transition. A) If I list names on the grant application, can they be changed later? B) Are these folks notified before a decision is made?**
A) Yes, the names listed as part of the district team may be changed prior to the start of the grant workshops. If the grant Point of Contact is changed, we would need to know immediately.
B) Prior to a grant decision being made, we will not notify the names listed in the application other than the names in "A2. Contact Person for this proposal" (District Point of Contact) and "A3. Business Office / Grant Funding Contact" from the *Part III – Required Program Information* document. The District Point of Contact will be responsible for disseminating any information or workshop dates to their district team members.