

FY2025: Computer Science Professional Development and Devices (FC 0142)

Questions & Answers

Grant details: [FY2025: Computer Science Professional Development and Devices](#)

The following questions have been received by DESE in regard to this grant. We have provided an answer to each question. This document will be updated and posted at [STEM Grants and Opportunities](#) on an ongoing basis as questions are received. See the grant details for how questions should be submitted to DESE.

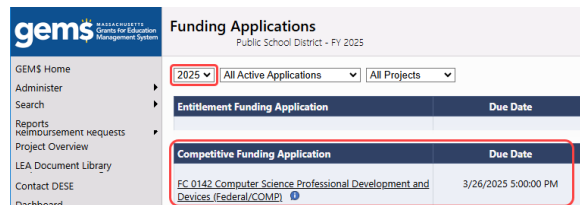
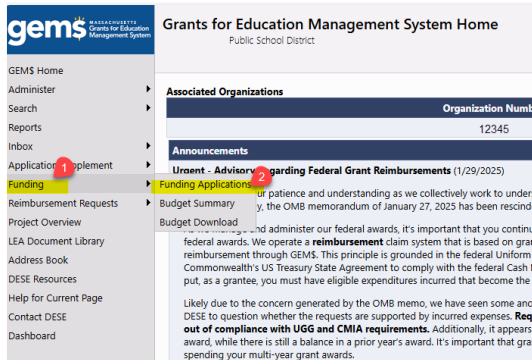
1. **Question:** Is this grant the CS Engage continuation grant?
Answer: No, this is not the CS Engage continuation grant, it is a new competitive grant. CS Engage districts are eligible to apply for the FC 0142 grant (as well as other LEAs as detailed in the grant details).

2. **Question:** Are towns that have not complied with the MBTA Communities Law requirements eligible to apply for this grant?
DESE response: This question is currently being researched. Please check back for the answer.
[Updated 3/7/25] Answer: FC0142 Grant awards are contingent upon the grantee being able to certify that it will comply with the Massachusetts General Laws, including G.L. c. 40A, § 3A, the MBTA Communities Act.

3. **Question:** Option 1: Is the cost associated with the PD only for the course or would this include stipend pay for staff to attend?
Answer: The funding in Option 1 is only for the cost of the PD and the devices related to the course being taken. The funding from this grant cannot be used for stipends.

4. **Question:** Districts can apply for more than 5 teachers, but if funding is maximized by all districts, would that be the max attendees?
Answer: That is correct, a district may apply for more than 5 teachers, but that number may need to be adjusted based on the number of applicants and total funding requested.

5. **Question:** I am unsure if my organization is eligible for this grant. How can I determine if we are eligible?
Answer: This grant must be applied for through GEM\$. In the GEM\$ application, each organization has a main Funding Applications page. When you are on this page, you will see a section labeled "Competitive Funding Application". If your organization is eligible for FC0142, you will see it listed under "Competitive Funding Application" (be sure to select FY2025 when looking for this grant).



6. **Question:** Could you clarify if for Option 2 you have to identify which comprehensive curriculum you use, if it needs to be listed as such in the Curriculum Data site for DESE? Or can it be for materials that support district developed lessons?
Answer: For Option 2, the teacher for whom you are requesting to purchase classroom devices *must* be teaching with a comprehensive curriculum that is listed as such in the [Massachusetts DLCS Curriculum Guide](#). If the teacher is instead using "district developed lessons", they are not eligible for Option 2 funding. All districts applying for the grant, must have curriculum detailed and up-to-date on the Curriculum Data

page as described in the grant: “**Curriculum Data Collection:** In order to be eligible for this grant, LEAs must have completed their Curriculum Data Collection. The data should be **viewable** and up to date here: [Curriculum Data](#). Directions about the expectations and how to provide the data can be found here: [Curriculum Data Collection](#).”

- **Follow-up Question:** It's my understanding according to this [deck \(slide 26\)](#), that only materials reported as Core and Required will be publicly available, is that the same as "viewable" in the answer above? If so, how would you define "required" for the DLCS curriculum that doesn't have a required course in our K-8 span?

Answer: ~~This question is currently being researched. Please check back for the answer.~~

[Updated 3/18/25: In this case, “viewable” and “publicly available” mean the same thing for the Curriculum Data dashboard. For both Option 1 and Option 2 a district will need to report something viewable for content areas that are being taught in your district (e.g., ELA, Math), even if it is teacher developed.

“Required” in the Curriculum Data dashboard refers to the curriculum use and not the course. That is, if teachers teaching the course are *required* to use that specific curriculum, then the materials are required. Thus, materials could be required for an elective. “Required” simply means that teachers are communicated the expectation that they use the materials, this doesn’t mean that there are any consequences or verification if they do not. (if you have additional questions about terminology for the Curriculum Data dashboard, please email [Craig Waterman](#).)

For this grant, for **Option 1**, your curriculum listing for DLCS in the Curriculum Data dashboard may remain blank. However, if you are applying for **Option 2** of this grant, the grant requires that the teacher to be teaching DLCS with a DLCS “comprehensive” curriculum from the [DLCS Curriculum Guide](#), and therefore, *that* curriculum should be reported in the Curriculum Data dashboard.

7. **Question:** Can you attend a different CSforMA PD or just the ones listed in the grant application?

Answer: For this grant, you may only select from the courses listed in the [grant posting](#).

8. **Question:** Do you know of the location for the professional development workshops?

Answer: All details on the dates and locations of the PD workshops can be found at the CSforMA [SummerSparCS](#) webpage. Please note, not all of the PD workshops listed on the SummerSparCS webpage are part of this grant. Please refer to the [grant posting](#) for the eligible PD workshops.

9. **Question:** Pending available funding, will there be any cap on the number of workshops that a teacher could potentially attend?

Answer: Although there is not a cap on the number of workshops a teacher could attend, please note this wording in the grant: “A cap of five (5) teachers per district will be imposed if the eligible grant application requests exceed the available funding.” That means at most one workshop per each of those five (5) teachers “if the requests exceed the available funding”.

10. **Question:** Will there be graduate credits offered (for separate purchase) for any of the offerings?

Answer: Graduate credits are not offered as part of the grant. Please contact CSforMA to inquire as to whether they offer graduate credits for their workshops.

11. **Question:** Can a district apply for funds under both options (1 and 2).

Answer: “Schools may apply for Option 1, Option 2, or both Option 1 and Option 2 as part of the same application”

12. **Question:** For Option [2], if we integrate DLCS standards into the Science curriculum and courses in our middle school (we have no stand alone DLCS class) are we still able to apply for Option [2] to increase

access to materials to support this work?

Answer: The RFP states: “**Option 2: Student Learning Devices**

A teacher who is, or will be, teaching in SY24-25 and/or SY25-26 with a CS curriculum marked as “comprehensive” in the [Massachusetts DLCS Curriculum Guide](#) may use up to \$300 to purchase student learning devices associated with that curriculum. The course must be taught at the school listed in the grant during school hours.”

Therefore, to answer your question, if the teacher is not using a curriculum (in SY24 or SY25) marked as “comprehensive” in the [Massachusetts DLCS Curriculum Guide](#) when they are integrating DLCS into a Science course, they are not eligible for Option 2 in this grant. They are, however, eligible for Option 1 to attend one of the PD workshops listed in the [Grant posting](#) as well as purchase associated devices.

13. **Question:** On the CSforMA website it states the *PreK-6 Digital Literacy* course provides 4 Subject Matter Knowledge (SMK) requirements towards the 12 needed for the DLCS PreK-6 license but DESE's Grant posting says it provides 5 SMK requirements. Which one is correct?

Answer: The CSforMA site is correct, the *PreK-6 Digital Literacy* course provides 4 SMKs towards the total of 12 needed for the DLCS PreK-6 competency review for licensure. We have now (as of 3/19/25) updated the grant posting to reflect the correct number of SMKs for this course.

14. **Question:** Do both of the following have to be true? Or, can only one of these be true to be eligible? From the grant posting:

- have licensed educators in any subject area who are interested in taking one of the selected CS-related courses to increase their knowledge in CS. The educators do not have to be currently teaching or planning to teach a CS course.
- have educators who are teaching or will teach with a CS curriculum aligned to the Massachusetts DLCS standards and would like to purchase student learning devices associated with that curriculum.

Answer: The first bullet item refers to Option 1 which means that any licensed educator teaching in your district is eligible for Option 1. The second bullet requirement is only for Option 2: in order to receive devices without first taking PD, the teacher must be teaching (SY 24 or SY25) with a DLCS curriculum listed as “comprehensive” in the [Massachusetts DLCS Curriculum Guide](#).