

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI)

BY THE STATE OF DELAWARE Department of Education

A. INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND:

During the spring of 2009 President Barack Obama announced the \$4.35 billion competitive grant program known as the Race to the Top Fund to spark transformational improvements to America's public schools. Among the 42 initial applications for funding Delaware's plan for reform was selected as the best and the State became one of just two first round winners. Delaware is now implementing its four year plan to become the best performing school system in the country. The State will achieve rapid, significant gains in student achievement through a strategy that builds upon the State's strong infrastructure for reform including a rigorous statewide educator evaluation system, a state-of-the-art longitudinal data system, and a cutting edge, computer adaptive system of formative and summative assessments. A centerpiece of the strategy is the State's investment in new statewide professional development initiatives to build the critical skills among teachers and leaders that will be necessary for successful reform.

The State of Delaware, Department of Education issues this Request for Information for the purpose of gaining a better understanding of the nature and scope of services offered by high-quality service providers in support of the following key objectives:

• SEVERAL OBJECTIVES OF THE MARKEL EDUCATION REFORM PROGRAM:

1. Support the implementation of new standards, aligned curriculum and high quality formative and summative assessments.
2. Set high standards for college- and career- readiness in schools by removing obstacles to, and actively supporting, student engagement and achievement.
3. Ensure implementation of effective research-based, data-focused instructional improvement systems.
4. Recruit, retain, develop, and support great teachers and leaders who can help all students meet high standards.
5. Implement strategies to engage families and communities effectively in supporting the academic success for all students.
6. Improve the effectiveness of teacher and principal preparation programs.
7. Ensure teacher and school leader professional development programs are the most effective, job-embedded, research-based, programs available.
8. Build capacity within DOE and LEA's to deliver against the goals.

INFORMATION TO BE PROVIDED:

Please indicate which of the following needs you are responding to (check all that apply):

- _____ Curriculum and Assessments
- _____ Educator Professional Development
- _____ Instructional Improvement Systems
- _____ Family and Community Engagement
- _____ Leadership Training

Please describe the services, processes, and structures you would use to address the needs outlined above, including your general approach in school systems with the following characteristics: **(Limit 10 pages)**

- Diverse student populations with statewide enrollment up to 125,000, including Local Education Agencies (LEAs) with enrollments ranging from several hundred students to 20,000
- Rural and urban schools with populations with high mobility rates.
- ELL and Special Needs students.
- Teachers, evaluators, and instructional leaders with a range of skills including novice, intermediate and advanced users of data,
- Teachers and leaders currently using a variety of data-driven Instructional Improvement Systems
- Leaders and assessors using the State’s DPAS II educator assessment system
- 200-plus school buildings, working within the time requirements of the school day to deliver effective services

Additional factors required for successful utilization of these types of services:

- Engaging each school’s internal and external stakeholders in transformational change processes necessary for improving schools
- Building capacity within each school to sustain the work after the completion of the Race To The Top funding period.
- Ability to implement comprehensive K-12 education system reform, demonstrating improvement in both high-performing and low-performing schools

B. VENDOR BACKGROUND: Providers identified through a DOE Request for Information (RFI) may include colleges and universities, non-profit and for-profit entities that have the necessary experience, organization, technical qualifications, skills, and facilities, or the ability to obtain them. Please supply a narrative description of your organization's history, together with your contact information, proof of financial viability, and data regarding your corporate structure, number of employees, brief profiles of senior management, and other pertinent information regarding your business.

C. PURPOSE OF THIS RFI: Using the results of this Request For Information Delaware's Department of Education will build a detailed, quality application that communicates the expectations that Delaware has for potential professional development service providers for its schools. The Delaware Department of Education will not attempt to identify providers through this process or procure any goods or services. The Request for Information process is merely a vehicle to gather information relative to the nature and quality of data-driven instructional support services and data coaching service providers that may be available nationally and locally. This is an effort to construct the best possible application process for this initiative.

E. INSTRUCTIONS FOR RESPONDING:

Please feel free to contact the Delaware Department of Education with any questions regarding this RFI. The main point of contact will be:

Ron Gough Public Information Office,
Delaware Department of Education
Townsend Building
401 Federal Street, Suite 2
Dover, DE 19901
302-735-4006

Submit an electronic response to this Request for Information to:

RTTT Implementation team
Delaware Department of Education
RTTTVendor@Doe.k12.de.us

Please respond by June 25, 2010 4:30 pm Eastern Standard Time.