Teachers of Tomorrow: Science, Mathematics, Bilingual Education and English as New Language Tuition Reimbursement Program
Q & A

Q1.   I don't see where Afton Central School is listed as eligible for this program (Teachers of Tomorrow) am I missing something?

A1.   The list of eligible districts is included on Table 1 on pages 12-13 of the 2020-21 Request for Application located at:
     http://www.nysed.gov/postsecondary-services/teachers-tomorrow

Q2.   Both our Superintendent and myself are new in our respective roles. I am under the impression that Lansingburgh was awarded this grant in the past. If so, would you be able to send me a copy of our application from previous years?

A2. NYSED is unable to furnish applications from previous cycles. Eligible districts must prepare and submit a new application based on the guidance included in the 2020-21 Request for Proposal.

Q3.   Would a technology teacher be considered under this grant? At our middle school, we currently have an uncertified teacher filling that role, and a retired teacher who graciously returned for the year. That is two positions that need to be filled.

A3.   Districts should utilize TOTSMBE funds to recruit qualified teachers who have received or will receive a transitional teaching certificate, to teach in a low-performing school that is experiencing a shortage of teachers in science, mathematics, bilingual education, and/or English as a new language.

Q4.   I would like to apply for the English as a New Language Tuition Reimbursement Program where or how can apply?

A4.   Your school district will have to apply for funding if they are listed as an eligible district on pages 12-13 of the RFA. The process for selecting participants from among eligible teachers is determined at the district level.

Q5.   On page 20 of the RFA, section 5 under Submission Instructions lists an attestation that needs to be provided as part of the electronic signature process. The instructions indicate the attestation can be emailed or that the signer may sign beside the statement. If emailed, should the attestation be simply included in the body of the email from the signer? Or should it be a PDF or Word document with a signature? How may the signer sign beside the statement?

A5. Please refer to the RFA for all acceptable forms of e-signatures. The attestation accompanying the application documents should be submitted by Word document or PDF as an attachment and must contain the e-signature of the signer of the documents. If extenuating circumstances prevent the abovementioned direction, the attestation may be inserted in the body of the email from the signer.

Q6.   Starting on page 7 of the RFA, the award amount for Categories A, B and C is listed as up to $9,328. It also indicates that initial awards are renewable for second year up to $9,328. Does this mean that awardees could potentially receive a maximum award of $18,656 over two years? Or does this indicate that the $9,328 may be split into two halves of $4,664?

Q7. In reading the RFP, it appears that Category A funds (professional certification) can be awarded up to two years, while Category B funds (initial certification) can only be awarded in year one. Am I reading this correctly?

A6 & A7.
        In all categories (A,B or C) districts may provide eligible participants an award of up to $9,328 to reimburse educational costs that the participant incurred prior to receiving this award, which were reasonable and necessary to fulfill NYSED requirements for the initial certificate. The maximum award a participant may receive is $9,328. The total of all awards to a participant may NOT exceed the total of reasonable and necessary educational costs incurred to fulfill NYSED requirements for the initial certificate.

The RFA has been updated to include this correction in Category A.

Note that the number of shortage FTEs does not represent the actual number of participants to whom a district may award funds. If a district makes awards that are less than $9,328 it can potentially award a larger number of participants.