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# The Smart Scholars Early College High School Program - Cohort 2



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*Information and RFP Webinar  
January 4, 2011*

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Deputy Commissioner, Office of Higher Education*

# Today's Agenda

- Background
- Overview of RFP
- Questions from participants via chat box and microphone



The recording of this webinar will be posted on our website:

<http://www.highered.nysed.gov/ss/rfp>

# The Smart Scholars Early College High School Program

- In 2007, the Board of Regents proposed the ***Smart Scholars ECHS Program*** to help ***close the student achievement gap***.
- In 2009, the University of the State of New York (USNY) received a \$6,000,000 grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to help fund the first cohort of eleven (11) Smart Scholars Early College High Schools.
- In 2010, the State Education Department has released a Request for Proposal (RFP) to initiate a second cohort of 12 to 14 Smart Scholars ECHSs that will be supported by an appropriation of \$6 million from the State.

# The Smart Scholars Early College High School Program *continued*

- This ***comprehensive program*** builds upon
  - programs that ***provide college courses to high school students***, such as College Now, the Early College High School Initiative, and CUNY, SUNY and independent colleges and universities
  - the active work of the Department's opportunity programs to ***assist educationally at-risk students to graduate from high school and achieve success in college.***

# Early Research

- Research conducted since 2002 by the American Institutes for Research (AIR) and SRI International (SRI) to evaluate the Early College High School Initiative (ECHSI) for the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation indicates that ECHS is a promising strategy for closing the achievement gap.
  
- ECHSI Evaluation
  - Mix of qualitative and quantitative methods
  - Based primarily on 2007-08 data from 157 Early College High Schools
  - Other sources also (publicly available data, transcript data, student surveys)

# ECHS Early Research

- ECHS are reaching their target populations:
  - 70% of ECHS students are students of color
  - 59% qualify for free or reduced price lunches
  - 46% will be first-generation college students
  
- ECHS have high attendance rates
  - Average daily attendance = 94%
  - 85% progress from one grade to the next



# ECHS Early Research

- ECHS students are earning college credit
  - Graduates earned about a semester to one year of college credit
  
- ECHS students are continuing on to college
  - 88% of ECHS graduates enrolled in college the next fall
    - 41% chose to attend four-year institutions
    - 47% chose to attend community colleges

# The Smart Scholars Early College High School Program - Overview

*Partnerships of local education agencies with institutions of higher education will establish approximately 25 Early College High Schools (ECHS).*

- LEA = local education agency = public school districts or charter schools
- IHE = institutions of higher education = SUNY, CUNY, independent or proprietary
- Eleven (11) partnerships were established in Cohort 1
- Twelve to fourteen (12-14) partnerships will be established in Cohort 2



# Purpose of the Smart Scholars ECHS Program



- To increase high school graduation rates
- To increase the number of students who complete a postsecondary credential or degree
- Target student population: students from populations traditionally underrepresented in college

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# Target Population for Early College High Schools

- Students who are educationally at-risk
  - Low-income
  - First generation to attend college
  - Racial/ethnic minorities
  - Students with Disabilities (SWD)
  - English Language Learners (ELL)
  - Attend “high needs schools”
    - Schools in Improvement Status (SIIS)
    - Persistently Lowest Achieving Schools (PLAS)
    - Schools under Registration Review (SURR)

# Overview of the RFP – Mandatory Requirements



- College courses meet high school graduation requirements, thereby compressing the time to complete high school and college degrees
- College credits:
  - Students must be able to earn a minimum of 20 and up to 60 college credits
  - Must be transferable to the partnering IHE
  - **Must be transferable to IHEs outside the partnership**
  - Articulation agreements or letters of intent must be submitted with proposal

# Overview of the RFP – Eligibility Requirements

- Partnerships of the following entities are eligible to respond to RFP

Public school districts	<b><i>Partnering with</i></b>	Public IHEs (SUNY, CUNY, 2-year or 4-year)
High needs schools		Independent IHEs
Charter Schools		Proprietary IHEs

- Community Based Organizations*** (CBOs) and ***business*** are encouraged to collaborate with ECHS partners, creating strong linkages to the community in which the ECHS resides; however, CBOs and businesses cannot be an applicant for the RFP, since they are not authorized to award college credit in New York State.
- Existing ECHS schools*** are eligible to respond to the RFP, however these schools must provide new or expanded service, including the development of demonstration sites that communicate best practices.

# Overview of the RFP – Priority Considerations

## ■ High Needs Schools

- 10 bonus points for Schools in Improvement Status (SIIS)
- 15 bonus points for Persistently Lowest Achieving Schools (PLAS) and Schools under Registration Review (SURR)

## ■ School Location

- On the partner IHE's campus – 6 points
- As a stand alone school located near the IHE – 3 points
- As a school within a school – 3 points
- Up to 2 additional points based on the quality of activities, including classes for students taking place on the IHE campus.

# Overview of the RFP – Priority Considerations

- **STEM focus – 5 bonus points**
  - Project-based, experiential, interdisciplinary teaching and learning of science, technology, engineering and mathematic
  
- **CTE (Career and Technical Education) focus – 5 bonus points**
  - Curriculum will prepare students to be “college – and career – ready”

# Overview of the RFP – Priority Considerations

- **Priority will be assigned to cost efficient proposals.**
  - The NYSED Contract Administration Unit will score the proposal budgets using the Best Value approach. This approach assigns the highest point value to the budget that has the lowest cost per student. The highest point value awarded for the budget section is 25 points.
  
- **Partnerships must be able to demonstrate financial stability for the long-term operation of the ECHS.**
  - Proposals can receive up to 4 points for demonstrating a workable plan to help sustain the Smart Scholars ECHS after the grant period.

# Overview of RFP – Regional Distribution of Award and Award Schedule

- The grant funds will be distributed among the ten Regents Higher Education Regions, based on the percentage of students enrolled in public high schools in each Region.
  - To provide adequate funding for the smallest Regions, the minimum amount for a four-year award has been set at \$200,000.
  - The maximum four-year award is \$450,000 or the amount available in each Region, whichever is lower.
- Grant recipients will receive awards according to the following schedule:
  - Year One, April 1, 2011 – August 31, 2011 (10% of grant award)
  - Year Two, September 1, 2011 – August 31, 2012 (30% of grant award)
  - Year Three, September 1, 2012 – August 31, 2013 (30% of grant award)
  - Year Four, September 1, 2013 – August 31, 2014 (30% of grant award)



# Overview of RFP – Regional Distribution

Regents Higher Education Regions	Percentage of All Public High School Students in New York State	Amount of Funding Available to Region Over Four Years	Amount of Funding Available to Region During Planning Phase (first 5 months, 10%)	Amount of Funding Available to Region Each Year During Years 2-4 (30% Each Year)
Capital	6%	\$ 319,565	\$ 31,957	\$ 95,870
Central	5%	\$ 266,304	\$ 26,630	\$ 79,891
Finger Lakes	7%	\$ 372,826	\$ 37,283	\$ 111,848
Hudson Valley	13%	\$ 692,391	\$ 69,239	\$ 207,717
Long Island	17%	\$ 905,435	\$ 90,544	\$ 271,631
Mohawk Valley	3%	\$ 200,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 60,000
NYC	37%	\$1,970,652	\$ 197,065	\$ 591,196
North Country	2%	\$ 200,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 60,000
Southern Tier	3%	\$ 200,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 60,000
Western	7%	\$ 372,826	\$ 37,283	\$ 111,848
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$5,500,000</b>	<b>\$ 550,000</b>	<b>\$1,650,000</b>

# Overview of the RFP – Eligible Activities – Pre-Opening

- Hiring a principal/program director and staff
- Developing a budget and business plan
- Establishing a suitable site/facility for the school
- Writing a detailed MOU with the IHE, including transfer of earned credits to the IHE partner
- Designing an aligned curriculum, academic standards and a sequence of courses that allow students to earn a minimum of 20 and up to 60 college credits while completing high school and required Regents exams
  - Incorporates a dual credit model and waivers for the timing of Regents exams



# Overview of the RFP – Eligible Activities – Pre-Opening

- Conducting outreach activities to staff and families at nearby middle and elementary schools and community-based organizations
- Establishing student recruitment and selection criteria
- Coordinating high school and college faculty, support services, calendars, and transportation and establishing on-going governance structures
- Developing assessment tools and instruments to evaluate college-readiness, student outcomes and program success, to make improvements, and to refine the assessment model throughout the development of the ECHS

# Overview of the RFP – Eligible Activities – Implementation

- Academic and social support services
- Data collection, sharing, reporting, and evaluation
- Student recruitment, community education and engagement
- Joint professional development for high school and college faculty
- School design and planning team activities (e.g. curriculum development)
- Transportation for students between the school and IHE campuses.
- Travel and fees for relevant professional development opportunities
- Support for college-high school partnership liaisons



# Overview of the RFP – Intermediary

- The State Education Department will contract with an Intermediary to provide technical assistance to the Smart Scholars partnerships.
- The Intermediary will be a nonprofit research and consulting organization that has demonstrated experience in the
  - recruitment of qualified educators
  - development of academic support services for college readiness
  - curriculum development
  - development, implementation and evaluation of assessment tools
- The Intermediary will
  - Guide the development of each ECHS, including the MOU, curriculum and school culture, via participation in committee meetings, as well as in-person, e-mail and phone consultation
  - Highlight and promote best practices from other states across the schools
  - Coordinate statewide and regional professional development opportunities





# Contract Period

- Two cohorts of ECHS partnerships -
  - Planning phase for Cohort 1 began in January 2010, and students' first full academic year began in September 2010. These contracts will end August 31, 2013
  - Planning phase for Cohort 2 begins in April 2011, to admit students in September 2011. These contracts will end August 31, 2014.
  
- It is anticipated that \$12,000,000 will be available for the total Smart Scholars Early College High School Program
  - Six million dollars (\$6,000,000) was awarded through private funding for Cohort 1.
  - Six million dollars (\$6,000,000) will be appropriated in the State budget for Cohort 2, over the next four years.

# Overview of the RFP- Required Elements of Proposal

- Proposal Summary: limited to a single page.
- Proposal Narrative: Must not exceed 25 pages. Explains how the partnership will address:
  - Target Population:
    - must serve grades 9 - 12
    - may serve grades 6 – 8 with academic and college readiness support
    - students who are at risk of dropping out of school (at-risk, economically disadvantaged, English language-learners, and first-generation college entrants)
    - ECHS must be small, we anticipate serving no more than 100 students per grade level or less

# Overview of the RFP- Required Elements of Proposal



## ■ P-16 Partnership

- Students enrolled in an ECHS course for high school graduation credit shall not be required to pay for tuition, fees, or textbooks
- ECHS supported by an active partnership between the school district and the IHE, including joint decision-making procedures
- Opportunities for teachers and IHE faculty to collaborate through planning, teaching, and professional development.



# Overview of the RFP- Required Elements of Proposal

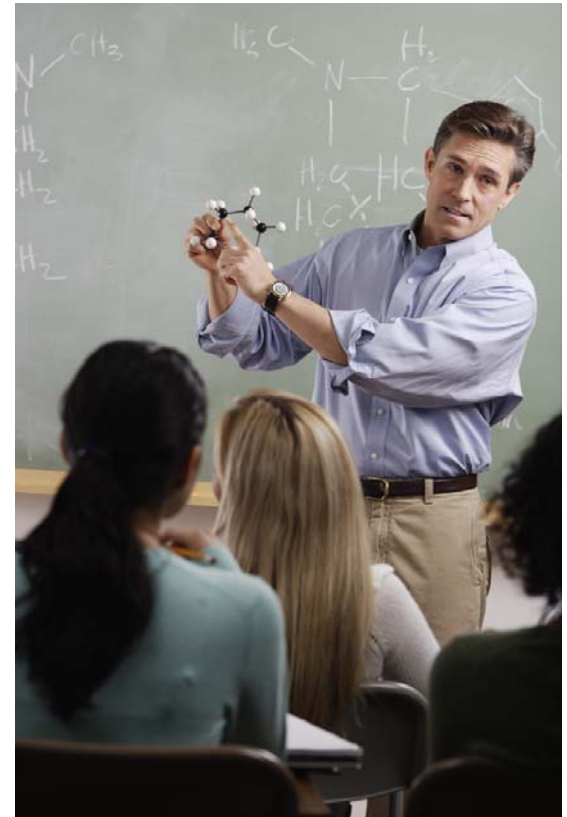
- Curriculum and Academic Rigor
  - curriculum enables students to receive high school diplomas and a minimum of 20 or up to 60 college credits
  - must determine readiness of students to be engaged in college-level work
- School Design
  - must be an autonomous high school that
    - is located on a college or university campus,
    - is a stand-alone high school near a college or university campus, **or**
    - is a small learning community within a larger high school that is near a college or university campus
  - must be a full-day program

# Overview of the RFP- Required Elements of Proposal

- Support Structures
  - Substantial parental and community involvement in strategies and activities
  - Foster a distinct college-going culture
    - Bridge programs, college activities and visits, classes on the college campus
  - Personalized learning environment and support services
    - Tutoring, mentoring
  - Social and emotional support services
    - Advisory structures, personalized learning communities, individual graduation plans, guidance and counseling
  - Access to IHE facilities, resources, and services
    - University faculty, libraries, science labs, technology, writing centers, artistic and sports facilities and activities

# Overview of the RFP- Required Elements of Proposal

- Staffing
  - teachers are highly qualified and have demonstrated the ability to provide accelerated instruction to students at risk
  - common planning time for faculty and other appropriate staff, including school leaders and higher education faculty
  - Teacher support and guidance through teacher mentoring, professional development, and induction programs
  - a qualified principal or school director

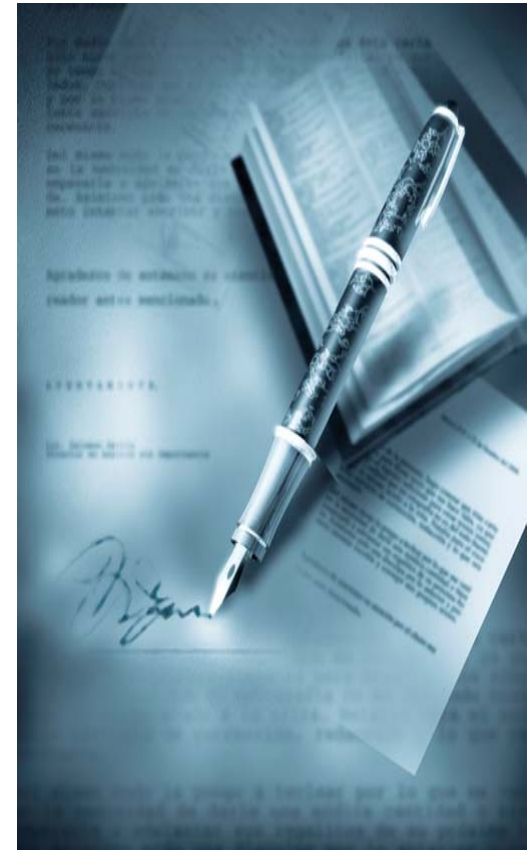


# Overview of the RFP- Required Elements of Proposal

- An articulated curriculum that
  - identifies all college courses
  - includes Regents exams
  - aligns those courses with higher level courses at the partner institution and at a number of transfer institutions
  
- A description of how the LEA and the IHE will formally engage, on an ongoing basis, important parties to the ECHS (program partners, parents, school leaders, and other local community based organizations)

# Other Submission Documents - to be submitted with proposal

- Identify Key Partners and submit resumes
- Project Management Plan
- MOU between LEA and IHE
- Student Recruitment Plan
- Articulation agreements/letters of intent
- Budget
- Plan for sustaining ECHS after period of grant
- Other documents as prescribed in the RFP



# Subcontracting & Staff Changes

## ■ Subcontracting

- Will be allowed
- Limited to 25% of annual contract budget

## ■ Staff Changes

- Must inform SED of any changes in staffing among partners
- All staff changes are subject to the approval of SED

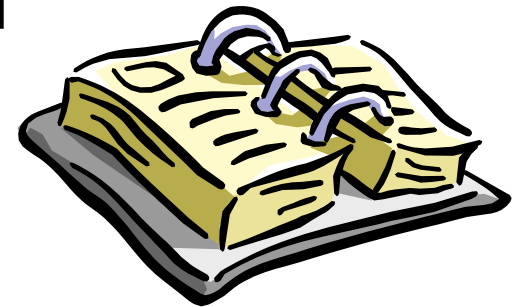
# Evaluation of Program

- Partnerships will be required to collaborate, collect and submit data for evaluation of the ECHS program.



# Timeline

- RFP for Smart Scholars Cohort 2 is distributed in December 2010
- Recorded webinar and PowerPoint slides will be posted on January 5, 2011
- Responses to questions submitted via e-mail by January 6, 2011 will be posted online by January 13, 2011
- Proposals must be postmarked by January 28, 2011
- Applicants will be informed by March 1, 2011
- Cohort 2 Partnerships start date:
  - Planning Period: April 2011
  - Student Entry: September 2011





# Questions



At this time, questions will be taken using the chat feature and the microphone.

We will try to address questions in the order that they are posted or “hands” are raised.

A link to the recording of this webinar and all questions and answers will be posted to the following website:

<http://www.highered.nysed.gov/ss/rfp>

## Resources

- The Early College High School Initiative

<http://www.earlycolleges.org/>

- Send questions to:

[SMARTSCHOLARSRFP@mail.nysed.gov](mailto:SMARTSCHOLARSRFP@mail.nysed.gov)



**Thank you for attending the  
Smart Scholars ECHS – Cohort 2  
webinar**