



2015-16 Formative Assessment Grant Application

Frequently Asked Questions Updated: 8/25/15

1) Where can I find more information regarding this grant?

Please feel free to visit the Formative Assessment Grant website at <http://www.doe.in.gov/assessment/formative-assessment-grant> or email the Office of Student Assessment at FormativeAssessments@doe.in.gov.

2) What is the purpose of this grant?

House Enrolled Act 1001 (the Budget bill) appropriated \$12,000,000 to the Indiana Department of Education (the Department) for the purpose of providing grant funding to schools for formative tests to identify students that require remediation.

3) Who is eligible to receive this grant?

All Indiana public school corporations, charter schools, and accredited nonpublic schools are eligible to apply for this grant.

4) What contracting options are available for the formative assessment grant?

a) Master Contracts - The Department will enter into Master Contracts, on behalf of public school corporations, charter schools, and **accredited nonpublic schools (New 8/25/15)** with approved formative assessment vendors willing to enter into such contracts (see the 2015-16 Approved Formative Assessment Vendors and Tests section on the Formative Assessment website link provided in #1 for more details).

b) Local Contracts – Public school corporations, charter schools and accredited nonpublic schools may enter into local contracts with approved formative assessment vendors and seek reimbursement from the Department (for approved vendors and tests). Details regarding the reimbursement process will be shared at a later date.

5) How much funding will each corporation receive?

The Indiana General Assembly allocated \$12 million for the 2015-16 Formative Assessment Grant opportunity. For illustration purposes, a sample per pupil, per content area funding was determined by dividing \$12 million by the estimated student enrollment count, resulting in \$17.45 per student for English/Language Arts and Mathematics formative assessment tests. This represents approximately



\$8.72 per student for ELA, and \$8.72 per student for Math. Actual enrollment counts will be determined in late fall and will be used to calculate a per pupil, per content area grant amount for each public school (including charters) and accredited nonpublic school across the state.

6) Can these grant funds be used to purchase any formative assessment test?

These grant funds can only be used to purchase formative assessment tests that meet specific criteria. Please visit the “Formative Assessment Test Criteria” section on the Formative Assessment Grant website link from #1 for more details.

7) What assistance is available for Kindergarten and Grades 1 - 2?

Kindergarten

If additional formative assessment grant funding remains after funding grades 3-10, the Department will notify corporations regarding the availability of these funds for purchasing formative assessment tests for Kindergarten students (corporations must complete the grades K – 2 section of the Request to Participate form in order to be eligible for any remaining 3-10 funds).

If additional funding is not available, corporations are welcome to use the IREAD-K assessment test that is provided by the Department for free. Please contact your Corporation Test Coordinator for more details. Corporations are also welcome to use local resources for funding formative assessment tests for Kindergarten students.

Grades 1-2

If additional formative assessment grant funding remains after funding grades 3-10, the Department will notify corporations regarding the availability of these funds for purchasing formative assessment tests for grades 1 – 2 students (corporations must complete the grades K – 2 section of the Request to Participate form in order to be eligible for any remaining 3-10 funds).

If additional funding is not available, corporations interested in purchasing formative assessment tests for literacy for Grades 1-2 are welcome to apply for the competitive Early Intervention Grant. However, since additional funding may not be available, it is important for schools to recognize that additional funding for these grade levels is not guaranteed; therefore, schools need to plan accordingly.

8) What type of flexibility is available with formative assessment tests purchased with this grant?

The following is determined at the local level:

- Formative assessment test vendor(s) selected
- Formative assessment test window(s)
- Student Population or Grade levels that will be served (i.e., one grade level, multiple grade levels, or specific student populations such as the bottom 25% of students)



- Content areas targeted (i.e., English Language Arts and/or Math)
- Schools selected (i.e., all schools in a corporation or select schools targeted by the corporation)

9) What professional development will my corporation receive regarding the use of formative assessment tests?

Corporations are strongly encouraged to research professional development that will be offered by potential vendors (before entering into local contracts) to ensure the vendor(s) selected will provide adequate training opportunities to ensure educators know how to appropriately utilize the formative assessment test(s) data with fidelity to assist with individualizing/differentiating instruction and remediation for students.

10) New 8/25/15 What if my corporation would like to select a vendor or test that is not listed on the 2015-16 Approved Formative Assessment Vendors and Tests spreadsheet posted on the Formative Assessment website?

In the vendor selection areas of the *Request to Participate* form, corporations may select a vendor and test from the 2015-16 Approved Formative Assessment Vendors and Tests spreadsheet or order to select a vendor and/or test that is not on the 2015-16 Approved Formative Assessment Vendors and Tests spreadsheet the corporation can select “Other”. After selecting “Other”, the corporation will be prompted to provide additional details regarding the other vendor’s contact information and formative assessment test. After the *Request to Participate* form closes on September 18, 2015, IDOE will follow-up with the other vendor(s) to obtain documentation confirming the formative assessment test the corporation selected meets criteria.

11) New 8/25/15 What if my corporation would like to make changes to our *Request to Participate* form after it has already been submitted to IDOE?

Please follow the “Reopen” instructions provided to Superintendents and principals via the 8/24/15 DOE Dialogue message or contact your Corporation Test Coordinator for more details.

12) New 8/25/15 Can school corporations or schools be their own formative assessment vendor?

The Department’s policy is that Formative Assessment Grant dollars are only used to fund outside vendors that provide the following:

- English/Language Arts and/or Math formative assessment tests that meet specific criteria;
- Professional development to assist staff with formative assessment test implementation fidelity and appropriate use of formative assessment test data;
- Diagnostic analysis of student performance;
- Student performance reports and analysis for teachers and parents; and



- Differentiated learning tools for educators, students and parents that support areas of instructional need

In addition, formative assessment data related to participating students and tests administered as part of the Formative Assessment Grant will be provided to the Department.

This FAQ document will be updated multiple times throughout the Request to Participate form window. Please be sure to review the "Updated" date section at the top of the FAQ document to determine when new updates have been made available.