2020-2021 Formative (Interim) Assessment Grant Overview

http://www.doe.in.gov/assessment/formative-assessment-grant

Red text shows fiscal updates made June 2020 in response to COVID-19 needs.

Vision and Purpose

Eliciting and analyzing evidence of student learning to guide classroom instruction at the individual student level results in increased academic success. Indiana's Formative (Interim) Assessment Grant provides funding to schools for formative (interim) assessment programs, tools, and targeted professional development in order to increase data-driven instructional practices and enrich learning for all students.

Eligibility

All Indiana public school corporations, charter schools, and accredited nonpublic schools (including choice schools) for students Grades K-10 (capped at corporation's most recent official Pupil Enrollment Count) are eligible. Any such school or corporation which successfully completes an application to participate will receive funds. This is not a competitive grant.

Allowable Uses of Funds

- Approved Math and/or English Language Arts interim assessment programs.
  Note: Visit the Formative Assessment Grant website for the most updated list of approved assessment programs.
  - Approved programs must include interim/benchmark assessments to be provided to students at intervals throughout the year.
  - Approved programs must measure student achievement and/or growth regarding Indiana Academic Standards over the course of the year.
  - Approved programs are not curricular in nature (i.e., "lesson based").
- Professional development to foster a deeper understanding of assessments, data-driven instruction, and assessment literacy. This includes:
  - Understanding the types and purposes of assessment.
  - Believing that assessment is an essential part of teaching and learning.
  - Incorporating formative assessment strategies in the classroom.
  - Using a balanced assessment system (i.e., multiple measures) to make informed educational decisions.
  - Understanding and interpreting student data.
  - Utilizing data to address instructional needs of students.

  (*Note: Travel expenses are not included. Teacher stipends for off-hour trainings or substitute expenses are allowed.*)
- Diagnostic analysis of student performance.
  - Highlighting strengths and weaknesses related to Indiana Academic Standards.
  - Identifying student misconceptions.
  - Extending teaching and learning beyond proficiency through the use of data.

- Student performance reports and analysis for teachers, students, and parents.
  - Platforms that provide tools for creating, administering, and reporting on common assessments across grades, schools, or districts.
  - Reports that describe student progress on one or more assessment.
  - Materials and resources that promote assessment literacy (understanding and using data) for teachers, students, and parents.
- Differentiated learning tools for educators, students, and parents that support areas of instructional need.
  - Tools must be part of a specific program that specifically tie to data outcomes.
  - Tools are not classroom supplies. Note: If you have questions regarding whether or not tools fall into this category, please contact the Office of Student Assessment.

Funding Allocations

The State of Indiana allocates $9,954,642.40 for the 2020-2021 Formative Assessment Grant. Funding is allotted per student, per assessment program (i.e., a student may receive funding for Mathematics as well as for English/Language Arts). The distribution algorithms are described below.

Allocation per Assessment	$\dfrac{\$9{,}954{,}642.40}{Total\ Number\ of\ Assessments\ (Math + ELA)}$
Allocation per Student	$(Allocation\ per\ Assessment)\ x\ (Number\ of\ Assessments)$ *Note: The number of assessments is limited to 1 or 2 (Math and/or ELA)*
Allocation per Corporation	*Sum of All Student Allocations*

The estimated allocation per student per assessment for school year 2020-2021 is $6.00. Therefore, a student could receive $6.00 for Mathematics and $6.00 for English/Language Arts for a total of $12.00 per student. The actual amount may be higher or lower based on the total number of participants. Indiana State Board of Education approval of allocations is required annually prior to distribution.

Local Contracts

Funds from this grant are deposited directly to corporations. Corporations and Schools will enter into local contracts with assessment program vendors from the approved assessment program list. Corporations may choose to contract and use formative assessments before the funding is distributed; however, the corporation would be responsible for any costs incurred above the final distribution amount.

Flexibility

Corporations and Schools determine details regarding the use of grant funds. Corporations may determine:

- What schools are participating
- What grade levels are participating
- What content areas (Mathematics and/or English/Language Arts) are being assessed
- What assessment programs are being used for each school/grade level
- When the programs are in use (i.e., when to enter into the contract within the school year, when testing windows occur, etc.)

Data Sharing

The Department retains the right to request data at any time from schools who use the Formative Assessment Grant to provide assessment services. Data may not be collected on a yearly basis, but may be requested at any time.