

To: Superintendents and Principals

From: Robin LeClaire, Chief Academic Officer

Date: August 14, 2020

Subject: Digital Learning Capacity Building Grant

Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) recognizes the immediate need to build the capacity of teachers to deliver highly-effective digital learning. To aid schools/districts in building this capacity, IDOE is launching the Digital Learning Capacity Building Grant. Through this innovative program, grants will be awarded to schools/districts that develop comprehensive plans to bring blended and digital learning training to their teachers. Applicants are encouraged to implement a train-the-trainer model in order to affect system-wide change and ensure sustainability. Additionally, schools/districts should leverage micro-credentialing to provide competency-based training and document the authentic growth that teachers experience through the training.

Grants will be awarded to public school districts or public charter schools for up to 15% of certified staff to participate in a competency-based micro-credentialing program that would build the teachers capacity to deliver high-quality digital learning. Awardee funding allocations will also be based upon the following scale:

| Number of Students Served | Maximum Allocation |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| < 2,000 | \$50,000 |
| 2,000 - 9,999 | \$75,000 |
| 10,000 + | \$100,000 |

The competency-based micro-credentialing utilized by the awarded schools/districts must be provided by entities with recognized expertise in micro-credentialing.

Appropriate use of funds excludes the following: 1:1 devices, learning management systems, student information systems, and full-time staff positions

Outcomes:

Districts will further opportunities for students by utilizing a competency-based micro-credentialing program to build the capacity of educators to deliver high quality digital learning.

Priorities for Funding:

Based on review using the grant rubric, priority in awarding funding shall be given to applications:

- Serving higher percentages of students receiving free/reduced lunch;
- Utilizing other funding sources to support additional educators;
- Serving students in grades K-12;
- That provides evidence of a robust sustainability plan that includes scaling the impact of the digital learning training to all educators in the school/district.

Grant Application Materials:

- Digital Learning Community Advisory Grant [Application](#)
- Grant applications will be reviewed using this [rubric](#).

Timeline:

- August 10, 2020 - Grant Application Available
- August 28, 2020 - Grant Application Due for Cohort 1
- September 2020 - Grants Awarded
- October 2020 - Grant Application available for Cohort 2, pending available funds
- October 2020 - Progress Monitoring Meeting
- November 2020 - Progress Monitoring Meeting

Please contact Jennifer Watson, jwatson3@doe.in.gov, with any questions.