**Request for Application**

**to participate in the**

**K-8 CA NGSS Early Implementation Initiative**

**An initiative under the direction of the**

**K-12 Alliance/WestEd**

**funded by the S.D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation**

**Letter of Intent due April 30, 2014 5:00 pm**

**Application due May 19, 2014 5:00 pm**

**Introduction/Background**

The K-8 CA NGSS Early Implementation Initiative is a 4-year fast-start demonstration project developed by the K-12 Alliance with close collaborative input from the leadership of the California Department of Education, the California State Board of Education, and Achieve to build district leadership capacity to implement NGSS district-wide. The Initiative is funded by the S.D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation.

California adopted the NGSS in 2013 with a projected state-wide implementation in the year 2016-17. This Initiative is designed to meet the needs of districts that are eager to be early implementers, who have the capacity and fortitude to be visionary in their implementation, and who are willing to collaborate to help other districts as they begin their implementation.

The Initiative is designed to provide professional learning and networking opportunities for district administrators and teachers that will result in the development and implementation of a strategic plan for the district’s science program. The goals of the initiative are to:

* Build district and school capacity to implement the CA NGSS through administrator and teacher leadership;
* Increase teacher content knowledge and pedagogical skills to implement the CA NGSS including the CA SBE Preferred Integrated Model for grades 6-8;
* Increase student opportunities to learn via CA NGSS to increase science (i.e., disciplinary core ideas, science and engineering practices and cross-cutting concepts) understanding;
* Build a collaborative school culture that supports the CA NGSS;
* Develop a CA NGSS Collaborative as a cross-district learning community for implementation including networking and pilot testing tools and processes for quality implementation; and
* Disseminate tools/processes to other CA districts who are implementing NGSS.

**Timeline**

April 30 5:00 pm **Letter of Intent** is **due.**

May 19 5:00 pm **Completed Application** is **due.**

Week of June 2 **Interviews.** Top district candidates will be interviewed during this time. Reviewers will contact districts to arrange a one-hour phone call

Week ofJune 9 **Notification of selected districts**

Week of August 4 **Leadership Academy.** The leadership team of up to 6-9 teachers and 3 administrators must attend this week-long professional learning opportunity. Location TBD in southern California

**Application Process**

1. Submit the Letter of Intent by April 30 at 5:00 pm by faxing the signed letter of intent to 714.848.2441 or emailing, with an electronic signature, to dwaters@wested.org. **Reviewers will consider applications only from the school districts that submit a Letter of Intent by the deadline**.
2. Complete the application, email one copy as a pdf to dwaters@wested.org by May 19 at 5:00 pm and **submit two hard copies** to be postmarked by May 19 to:

Doris Waters

K-12 Alliance Office Manager

15662 Fox Hills Street

Westminster, CA 92683

1. Use the following guidelines for completing the application:
2. Please complete the application in a word document using size 12 font, with 1 inch margins and 1.5 spacing.
3. In the footer, please list the district name and the page number.
4. The completed application should be no more than 15 pages. Reviewers will look favorably on applications that answer each question in a succinct manner.
5. Please include the Cover Page (not included in the page count) found at the end of the RFA.
6. You may also include a Table of Contents (not included in the page count) if you wish.
7. You do not need to write the question in your answer, but please number each question as indicated.

**Criteria for Participation**

The Initiative is looking for districts that have a history of productive science professional development and a vision and capacity to make CA NGSS a reality for all of their students. To participate in the Initiative, the district must agree to:

🞏 implement K-5 science education as a core subject in the district’s schools

🞏 implement the SBE-preferred CA Integrated Model for grades 6-8

🞏 assemble a leadership team (up to 6-9 teachers and 3 administrators) to attend the Leadership Academy August 4-8, 2014 with continuing involvement during the remainder of the Initiative

 🞏 provide resources (e.g., through LCFF and LCAP) over the four years of the Initiative to the implementation of the NGSS as part of the district’s vision and goals

🞏 provide a project director to oversee the program for years 2-4

🞏 commit financial resources to support project director, teacher stipends and release time with the Initiative covering most of these costs in years 1-2 and the districts covering a larger portion in years 3-4. (Please see District Financial Commitment in the RFA).

🞏 provide in year 1, four (4) days of release time for leadership team on-site professional learning

🞏 provide in years 2-4 four (4) days of release time for leadership team AND participating teachers (up to 60) for on-site professional learning

🞏 provide in years 1-4 six (6) days of release time for the 12-person leadership team for technical assistance

🞏 provide opportunities for on-site implementation (e.g., dedicated PLC time) in years 2-4 and one to two (1-2) district-wide dedicated science professional learning days for all K-8 teachers

🞏 provide facilities and incentives for after school professional learning experiences for district teachers

🞏 provide access to district media for on-line professional learning modules

🞏 commit to the implementation of K-8 CA NGSS district wide by 2017-2018 and sustain its implementation beyond that date

**Application Questions.** Please answer the following questions in paragraph form. You do not have to repeat the question, but please number them as they appear below.

**A. District Description (limit 2 pages)**

1. Describe the demographics of your district in grades K-8 including percentage of ELL students and students in free or reduced lunch program.
2. Describe your current structure (e.g., K-5 self-contained classrooms, 6-8 middle schools, K-8 schools, K-6 and 7-8). Please indicate whether or not your current middle school model includes 3 full years of science.
3. Describe your district’s past three year K-8 science program, including curriculum, science instructional minutes/day or week at both elementary and middle school, measures of student achievement/understanding, professional learning opportunities for teachers and administrators, etc.

**B. Vision/Strategic Plan/Structures and Sustainability for CA NGSS Implementation (up to 13 pages)**

1. Describe the district’s vision and goals for science education in the next 5 years and how participation in the NGSS Early Implementation Initiative will further those goals.
2. Every LEA must finalize a Local Control and Accountability Plan by July 1, 2014. Several of the new state priorities include NGSS: for example, Priority #2 is about implementation of academic content and performance standards adopted by the SBE. Priority #7 is about pupil enrollment in a broad course of study that includes all of the subject areas in Ed Code.
3. Address how you will include science education in your district’s Local Control Accountability Plan to improve science education for all students.
4. Describe how you might engage your stakeholders to understand the value to student learning of NGSS implementation.
5. Address how you might allocate funding from your Local Control Funding Formula in the next three years (beginning in 2014-2015) to improving science education for all students, and how you might use any supplemental or concentration funding to improve science education for low income, EL, and foster youth.
6. CA’s NGSS adoption is aligned across grade levels with Common Core State Standards ELA and Math.
	1. Describe your LEA’s current efforts and future plans for ensuring that elementary teachers have the professional development (PD) and professional learning community (PLC) time and support to collaborate. Address how collaboration will leverage the instructional opportunities available to reinforce deeper student learning across all three core subjects (ELA, Math, and Science). Include in your answer a description of your PLC time and structure.
	2. Describe your LEA’s current efforts and future plans for ensuring that middle school ELA, Math, and Science teachers have the professional development (PD) and professional learning community (PLC) time and support to collaborate. Address how collaboration will leverage the instructional opportunities available to reinforce deeper student learning across all three core subjects. Include in your answer a description of your PLC time and structure
7. The quality implementation of CA NGSS K-8 will require creative configurations at the elementary and middle school.
8. How will you ensure that the schools in your district are enabled to increase emphasis and science instructional minutes in the elementary and intermediate grades?
9. For middle grades, how might you restructure to build on teacher expertise to implement the CA NGSS Integrated Model for 6-8?
10. What structures/programs (e.g., STEM related programs, business/science informal partnerships, PLCs, etc.) do you currently have in place that would assist in on-site implementation of NGSS? In district-wide implementation?
11. How will you retain teachers and administrators in the K-8 CA NGSS Early Implementation Initiative for 4 years?
12. In chart form please list the proposed project director and indicate their current status (e.g., TOSA, district office, science coordinator), teacher members of the leadership team and their grade levels, and administrators and their titles.
13. How will the district/LEA continue to support the work of the Leadership Team after completion of the 4-year commitment?

**Scoring**

Reviewers will rubric score all applications that have an approved Letter of Intent on file and that meet formatting guidelines. Questions will be weighted as follows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Section ADistrict DescriptionQuestions 1-3 | 10 points |
| Section BQuestion 4 Vision | 15 points |
| Section BQuestions 5 and 6Alignment with LCAP Current and future plans for establishing and science as a core part of the district’s curriculum | 35 points |
| Section BQuestions 7 and 8 Structures | 25 points |
| Section BQuestions 9 and 10Sustainability | 15 points |

Selection decisions are final.

**Questions:** Please contact Kathy DiRanna (kdirann@wested.org) or 714.812.0288

**District Financial Commitment**

Full implementation of the NGSS requires time, energy and financial resources. The grant is poised to assist districts as they begin the implementation in years 1 and 2 of the program, with the district assuming a larger responsibility in years 3 and 4. The following costs are part of the implementation:

*Teacher Release Time*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Year** | **Description** | **Grant** | **District** |
| Year 1 | 4 days for the 6-9 Core Leadership Teachers for lesson study 6 days for the 6-9 Core Leadership Teachers for technical assistance (e.g. developing district implementation plan  | XX |  |
| Year 2 | 4 days for the 6-9 Core Leadership Teachers for lesson study 6 days for the 6-9 Core Leadership Teachers for technical assistance (e.g. developing district implementation plan)4 days for the (up to 60) Teacher Leaders for lesson study  | XXX |  |
| Year 3 | 4 days for the 6-9 Core Leadership Teachers for lesson study 6 days for the 6-9 Core Leadership Teachers for technical assistance (e.g. developing district implementation plan 4 days for the (up to 60) Teacher Leaders for lesson study  | XX | X |
| Year 4 | 4 days for the 6-9 Core Leadership Teachers for lesson study 6 days for the 6-9 Core Leadership Teachers for technical assistance (e.g. developing district implementation plan 4 days for the (up to 60) Teacher Leaders for lesson study  |  | XXX |

Note: 3 administrators are expected to participate in the Core Leadership Activities

*Teacher Stipends*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Year** | **Description** | **Grant** | **District** |
| Year 1 | 6-9 Core Leadership Teachers @$2000  | X |  |
| Year 2 | 6-9 Core Leadership Teachers @$4000 Up to 60 Teacher Leaders @ $2000  | XX |  |
| Year 3 | 6-9 Core Leadership Teachers@ $4000 Up to 60 Teacher Leaders @ $2000  | X75% | 25% |
| Year 4 | 6-9 Core Leadership Teachers@ $4000 Up to 60 Teacher Leaders @ $2000  | X50% | 50% |

Note: 3 administrators are expected to participate in the Core Leadership as part of their administrative duties.

*Project Director*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Year** | **Description** | **Grant** | **District** |
| Year 1 | A stipend of $8,000 for additional work beyond the person’s current position (e.g., teacher, TOSA, district office employee) | X |  |
| Year 2 | Salary and benefits  | 50% | 50% |
| Year 3 | Salary and benefits  | 50% | 50% |
| Year 4 | Salary and benefits  | 50% | 50% |

*District Wide Professional Development Buy Back Days*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Year 1 | none |
| Year 2 | none |
| Year 3 | District expense |
| Year 4 | District expense |

*Other Resources*

In years 3 and 4 of the grant, the district would provide facilities and incentives for after school professional learning experiences for classroom teachers and access to district media for on-line professional learning modules.

**Estimated Costs to the District**

The following examples are for illustrative purposes only. The actual district cost will be dependent on the actual teams that are selected to participate. In the following scenarios, release time was calculated at $125/day; stipends as indicated in the chart on the previous page; and a project director at $120,000 for salary and benefits.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **District Size/Participation** | **Approximate district cost** **over 4 years** |
| Less than 15,000 K-8 Students: based on 5 Core Teachers, 2 Administrators and 15 teachers for all 4 years  | $223,750 |
| 15,000-30,000 K-8 Students: based on 6 Core Teachers, 3 Administrators and 30 Teacher Leaders for all 4 years | $262,500 |
| 30,000 and above K-8 Students: based on 9 Core Teacher Leaders, 3 Administrators and 60 Teacher Leaders for all 4 years | $341,250 |

**K-8 CA NGSS Early Implementation Initiative**

**Cover Page**

LEA Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

LEA Address\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Superintendent Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Superintendent Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Contact for Grant Related Questions/Interview:**

Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Title\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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