

Rules and Regulations Matching Grants for Mathematics and Science Equipment

1.00 REGULATORY AUTHORITY

1.01 These regulations shall be known as Arkansas Department of Education Regulations governing the Mathematics and Science Equipment.

1.02 These regulations are enacted pursuant to the State Board of Education's authority under Act 453 of 1991.

2.00 PURPOSE

2.01 It is the purpose of these regulations to allocate funds to school districts for the purchase of mathematics and science equipment.

3.00 DEFINITIONS/ACRONYMS

3.01 Project: Project refers to an application received from a local school district requesting funding for the purchase of mathematics and/or science equipment.

3.02 Mathematics: Instruction provided by certified mathematics teachers as outlined in the course content guides for mathematics published or approved by the Department of Education.

3.03 Science: Instruction provided by certified science teachers as outlined by the course content guides published or approved by the Department of Education.

3.04 Equipment: Equipment includes apparatus or "hands-on" manipulatives needed in instruction or demonstration of science or mathematics concepts in the classroom.

3.05 Local School District: Public agency charged with providing elementary or secondary education program. Regional Service Cooperatives are not eligible to apply for funding under this program.

4.00 ALLOCATION OF FUNDS

4.01 Each school district receiving a grant award will be reimbursed 50% of its expenses in purchasing equipment, not to exceed \$5,000.

5.00 APPLICATION PROCEDURES

5.01 Prior to July 1 of each year, the Department of Education will provide project application forms for mathematics and science equipment grants to each local school district.

5.02 Each local school district wanting to apply for such a grant must submit a completed application to the Department of Education, Curriculum and Assessment Unit, by October 15 of the grant application year.

5.03 Each local school district may submit only one project application.

5.04 Local school districts, with the advice of classroom teachers, may apply for funding based on needs of the district as a whole, or needs of any school or schools within the district.

5.05 In each project application, local school districts may address needs in science only, mathematics only, or a combination of mathematics and science.

5.06 Each local school district application must include:

A. A summary of needs within the district in the areas of science and mathematics. The summary should relate existing conditions in the district and needs of the district in the areas of student achievement in science and mathematics; equipment available within the district; and restructuring, curriculum enhanced projects, or other innovative projects being implemented in the district. The summary should include any other information which would be relevant in explaining the needs of the district.

B. A list of the proposed equipment that will be purchased under this project.

C. Assurances that the 50% matching funds are available at the district level.

D. An explanation of how the equipment to be purchased will be used to enhance the teaching/learning of mathematics and/or science for all students in the district or targeted school.

6.00 ELIGIBLE EQUIPMENT

6.01 Any science equipment recommended by the science course content guides is eligible for funding. High technology scientific probe attachments to computers are eligible; however, the purchase of basic hardware will not be considered a priority.

6.02 Mathematics equipment may include manipulatives and calculators for use at all grade levels.

6.03 Print materials and other consumable items (e.g., chemicals, specimen for dissecting) are not considered equipment.

7.00 PROJECT SELECTION PROCEDURE

7.01 A seven member panel, selected by the Director of the Department of Education will review all project applications. This panel shall include:

A. Department of Education Science Specialist

B. Department of Education Mathematics Specialist

C. A representative from the Department of Higher Education

D. Four other individuals not employed by the public schools.

7.02 Project applications will be evaluated by the panel using the following criteria:

7.02.1 Submission of a completed application by the established deadline.

7.02.2 Geographic locations and school district sizes. The panel will select applications from varied geographic locations and from districts of varying size.

7.02.3 Identified needs. The panel will consider needs related to three areas:

a. student achievement

b. equipment

c. curriculum expansions

7.02.4 Teacher Participation in project development. The panel will consider those applications which were developed with significant teacher input more favorably than those with cursory teacher participation.

7.03 The selection panel will recommend project applications to the Director of the Department of Education for funding.

7.04 The Director of the Department of Education will select the grant recipients from those recommended by the selection panel.

7.05 The Department will notify those districts selected to receive grants by December 1 of each year.

8.00 DUTIES OF SCHOOL DISTRICT RECEIVING GRANT AWARDS

8.01 Once notified by the Department of Education, a local school district receiving a grant award must purchase the equipment identified in the proposal.

8.02 The grant recipient districts must submit paid invoices of equipment purchased to the Department of Education before April 30 of each year. The districts must also submit records of shipping and handling charges for which it seeks reimbursement.