

## Native American Achievement Schools Grant Program Request for Proposals 2016

### Grant Purpose and Priorities

**Application Deadline:** Postmarked on or before Oct. 7, 2016

**Award Notification Date:** Nov. 1, 2016

**Grant Period:** Nov. 2, 2016-June 30, 2019

**Scope:** Approximately \$1.7 million will be granted to three qualified applicants. Projects may begin following the award notification date listed above. Native American achievement schools are expected to be fully operational for the start of the 2019-20 school year.

**Maximum Award:** \$590,000 per applicant for entire grant period, with funds distributed on an expenditure basis with required supporting documentation

The purpose of the grant program is to fund the establishment of up to three Native American achievement schools aimed at improving academic outcomes for Native American students. The program is modeled after a successful approach being used in New Mexico. Grant recipients will be expected to commit to increasing student success by: building cultural identities of all students; encouraging academic perseverance; supporting the development of the whole child; and encouraging student leadership skills. This commitment to student success is demonstrated by incorporating one or more of the following priorities into the plan for operating a Native American achievement school:

- Offering programming designed to lead to postsecondary readiness and work readiness;
- Supporting the recruitment and retention of highly effective teachers and administrators;
- Demonstrating commitment to implementation of the Oceti Sakowin Essential Understandings and Standards across the curriculum;
- Demonstrating a commitment to implementation of courses offering instruction in Dakota, Lakota or Nakota languages;
- Maintaining a school environment that cultivates diversity of the student population and promotes a sense of belonging;
- Forming partnerships with community organizations or governmental entities;
- Planning for sustainability.

### Grant Requirement: Identifying a Fellow

An applicant seeking a grant from the Native American Achievement Schools Program must identify in its application an individual from the school and/or community who will

serve as its “fellow.” This fellow will be responsible for leading the implementation of the grantee’s proposal. The fellow will be required to attend specific training, based on the model established by the Native American Community Academy in New Mexico, at both in- and out-of-state locations. If a grant applicant is unable to identify a fellow in its application, the applicant should identify both the steps it will take and the qualifications it will seek in securing a fellow to lead the grant work. **A fellow must be identified no later than Dec. 1, 2016.**

### **Eligibility**

An applicant seeking a grant from the Native American Achievement Schools Program must meet all of the following eligibility requirements:

- Be an accredited public school within the State of South Dakota;
- Serve a student population for which school-level results for the 2014-15 school year on the state academic assessment are below the statewide average proficiency rate in English language arts and mathematics;
- Serve a student population of which at least 50 percent is comprised of Native American students;
- Demonstrate access to a physical facility that is adequate for implementation of the project; and
- Demonstrate the ability to implement the proposal in accordance with all requirements of state and federal laws and regulations, and policies of the South Dakota Department of Education.

### **Use of Funds**

Funding to establish the Native American Achievement Schools Program was approved by the 2016 South Dakota Legislature. Funds are available on a one-time basis; grant proposals must be self-sustaining beyond this initial investment. Funds will support the cost of a fellow to lead the implementation of the proposal, including required training and travel for the fellow; purchases of services, materials, supplies and equipment related to the proposal’s activities and outcomes; planning and start-up costs; scale-up costs; and evaluation. Costs must be necessary and reasonable to fulfill the proposal, and supporting documentation will be required to support all expenditures. Payments will be made on an expenditure basis.

### **Proposal Format**

All proposals shall contain the following components:

- **Application Cover Page:** Must be signed by the district superintendent and school board chair, as well as the tribal education director and/or tribal chair of the Native American tribe located nearest to the school district.
- **Grant Details:**
  - Abstract
  - Goals/Outcomes

- Narrative
- **Budget:** Due to the nature of the model, a budget is provided in the application. Please include narrative on how the project will be sustained beyond the funding period.
- **Assurances and Attestations:** Signed by the district superintendent and school board president

### **Application Deadline and Award Process**

Applications must be submitted on or before Oct. 7, 2016. They should be submitted as both a PDF attachment to an email and a paper copy with original signatures.

### **E-mails sent to:**

[Mato.standinghigh@state.sd.us](mailto:Mato.standinghigh@state.sd.us) AND [Marta.neuman@state.sd.us](mailto:Marta.neuman@state.sd.us)

### **Paper copy sent to:**

South Dakota Department of Education  
Attn: Mato Standing High  
800 Governors Drive  
Pierre, SD 57501

Grant awards will be made on a competitive basis. All proposals will be read and judged by a review committee, which includes representation from the Indian Education Advisory Council. The review committee will determine award winners based on the grant priorities and criteria using a scoring rubric. Award notifications will be made by Nov. 1, 2016. Award decisions made by the review committee are final.

### **Contact**

Applicants may direct questions regarding grant applications to Mato Standing High, Office of Indian Education, South Dakota Department of Education, at (605) 280-7964 or [mato.standinghigh@state.sd.us](mailto:mato.standinghigh@state.sd.us)