SUBMISSION

1. RFP Page 3 General Information: The Mississippi Department of Education (MDE), Office of Elementary Education, is seeking competitive written proposals from Mississippi Public School Districts for implementing dyslexia programs in grades K – 12.
   QUESTION: Are individual schools able to write a submission for their school only to compete?

   This RFP is intended for MS Public School Districts to implement dyslexia programs.

2. RFP Page 3 General Information: The Mississippi Department of Education (MDE), Office of Elementary Education, is seeking competitive written proposals from Mississippi Public School Districts for implementing dyslexia programs in grades K – 12.
   QUESTION: Is a dyslexia center that is a 501c3 able to apply for this grant?

   This RFP is intended for MS Public School Districts to implement dyslexia programs.

3. RFP Page 3 General Information: The Mississippi Department of Education (MDE), Office of Elementary Education, is seeking competitive written proposals from Mississippi Public School Districts for implementing dyslexia programs in grades K – 12.
   QUESTION: Are charter schools eligible to apply for this grant?

   This RFP is intended for MS Public School Districts to implement dyslexia programs. Under MCA Section 37-28-3(2) all charter schools in the state under [the charter chapter] are public schools and are part of the state’s public education system.

4. On the dyslexia grant RFP, it states that it should be sent in by Tuesday, March 26th, 2021. March 26th is on a Friday. Do we go with March 26th?

   The RFP should be received by 5:00 pm on Friday, March 26, 2021.

5. Is there an intent letter I should fill out and send back for the MDE Dyslexia Grant RFP?

   An intent letter is not required for this submission.
6. RFP Page 15 Program Plan and Implementation: As part of the proposed program plan, grantees must provide evidence that otherwise demonstrates experience or the promise of success in providing services.

QUESTION: Do questions a, b, and c on page 17 need to be submitted in a table format?

Yes, the goals, measurable objectives, measurement tools, activities, and timeframe should be submitted in a table format. A sample of this can be found on page 16 of the RFP.

7. RFP Page 5 Submission and Delivery of Proposals: One (1) original sealed proposal must be received by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 26, 2021.

QUESTION: What is the number of originals and copies that need to be submitted?

This RFP only required one original sealed proposal and no additional copies. However, due to COVID-19 the MDE will not accept hand deliveries. Please submit proposals via the shipping instruction found in the RFP or by electronic submission on or before the deadline date to RFXS@mdek12.org. For additional information you can read the full explanation here https://www.mdek12.org/PN/RFP.

8. RFP Page 14 Proposal and Scoring Process: This section covers the criteria a grantee must address when submitting a proposal.

QUESTION: Where is the appropriate place for the Proposal Narrative?

It is recommended that the Proposal Narrative is included after the required signature pages and before the Needs Assessment.

9. RFP Page 4 Formatting Directions: Proposals must be submitted utilizing the format described here in the RFP. The following components must be included, in the following order, in all proposals that are submitted. Failure to submit the required completed forms with signatures will result in the rejection of the proposal. The narrative portions of the proposal should not exceed 2 pages.

QUESTION: Is there a specific form for the needs, assessment, program implementation plan, staffing and professional development?

This information should be typed and submitted with the following parameters:

- Submitted on 8.5” x 11” white paper using 12-point Times New Roman font.
- Formatted using 1” margins on all sides.
- Portrait setting.
- Double-spaced and single-sided (pages must include Grantee’s name, contact information, and page number within the footer in the lower right-hand corner).

10. QUESTION: What is the total number of pages to be submitted?

The RFP does not have a total number of pages to be submitted.

11. QUESTION: What if the narrative exceeds two pages?

The narrative portion should not exceed two pages. All submissions should work within the provided parameters.
12. RFP Page 3 General Information: The purpose of the dyslexia grant is to assist school districts in piloting programs needed to meet the needs of regular education students identified as having dyslexia and other related disorders and in need of a multisensory, systematic language-based instructional programming, in accordance with Mississippi Code §37-23-15.

**QUESTION:** Can these funds be used to expand an existing program?

*It is the intent of the MDE that these dyslexia projects support the needs of identified students in accordance with the College- and Career-Readiness Standards, the State Board of Education Goals, and State Board Policy 41.1 on the Intervention Process. Therefore, the grant can be used to expand upon an existing program.*

13. RFP Page 10 Use of Funds: Funds are used for program implementation, as well as for operating expenses.

**QUESTION:** Would obtaining Orton-Gillingham specialists’ certification through Brain Spring Phonics Frist be covered under professional development training?

*The RFP states that the funds can be used to attend or provide professional development trainings related to dyslexia for teachers, administrators, and parents. Brain Spring Phonics First would be an allowable professional development training under this guidance.*

14. RFP Page 10 Use of Funds: Funds are used for program implementation, as well as for operating expenses.

**QUESTION:** Can your district supplement the pay of the Dyslexia Therapist?

*The RFP states that the funds can be used to fund up to 80% of a dyslexia therapist or dyslexia therapist in training salary. Therefore, the district should supplement the additional 20%.*

15. RFP Page 11 Non-Allowable Costs: cost of computers, computer software, projectors, Smart Boards, or similar equipment for exclusive use of individual teachers

**QUESTION:** What types of equipment could be eligible for purchase.

*The RFP provides a list of allowable use of funds on page 10. It is important for the proposals to include how the materials/equipment that is purchased will be used to provide services to students.*

16. RFP Page 10 Use of Funds: Funds are used for program implementation, as well as for operating expenses.

**QUESTION:** Can the therapist have an assistant, if so, who pays them?

*The RFP does not state who would pay for an assistant. That would be a district decision.*
17. RFP Page 10 Use of Funds: Funds are used for program implementation, as well as for operating expenses.

QUESTION: Can the dyslexia therapist grant be used for the salary of a certified dyslexia therapist who is not full time?

The RFP does not state if the therapist would need to be full time. That would be a district decision.

18. RFP Page 10 Use of Funds: Funds are used for program implementation, as well as for operating expenses such as funding up to 80% of a dyslexia therapist or dyslexia therapist in training salary.

QUESTION: Does the 80% include fringe benefits, or can this be considered a separate expense?

The 80% does include fringe benefits and would not have to be considered a separate expense.

GENERAL

19. QUESTION: Can the dyslexia grant be used for more than one position or a single interventionist serving an entire district.

The RFP does not state if the position is for just one or multiple therapists. That would be a district decision.

20. RFP Page 3 General Information: The purpose of the dyslexia grant is to assist school districts in piloting programs needed to meet the needs of regular education students identified as having dyslexia and other related disorders and in need of a multisensory, systematic language-based instructional programming, in accordance with Mississippi Code §37-23-15.

QUESTION: Is the dyslexia grant only for students diagnosed with dyslexia, dyscalculia, dysgraphia, and dyspraxia?

It is the intent of the MDE that these dyslexia projects support the needs of identified students in accordance with the College- and Career-Readiness Standards, the State Board of Education Goals, and State Board Policy 41.1 on the Intervention Process. Therefore, these students would need to have a diagnosis of one of the above-mentioned categories.

21. RFP Page 3 General Information: The purpose of the dyslexia grant is to assist school districts in piloting programs needed to meet the needs of regular education students identified as having dyslexia and other related disorders and in need of a multisensory, systematic language-based instructional programming, in accordance with Mississippi Code §37-23-15.

QUESTION: Will general education students with and without a formal diagnosis to include students with an IEP with and without an official dyslexia diagnosis be able to continue to be eligible for services utilizing grant money as long as we have a process to determine need for services? Are we allowed to address these needs in our grant narrative?

It is the intent of the MDE that these dyslexia projects support the needs of identified students in accordance with the College- and Career-Readiness Standards, the State Board of Education Goals, and State Board Policy 41.1 on the Intervention Process. Therefore, a process should be in place to determine which students are receiving these services. This information should be addressed in the grant narrative.
22. QUESTION: If we were to apply and receive the grant, would we be required to accept ALL students from other districts that qualify for the dyslexia therapy scholarship or is that at our discretion?

The RFP does not state that districts would be required to accept students from other districts. The school district would need to meet all requirements established in the 2019 MS Code Title 37-173 Dyslexia Therapy Scholarship for Students with Dyslexia Program to receive students from another district. A full explanation of those requirements can be found here https://law.justia.com/codes/mississippi/2019/title-37/chapter-173/
NOTE: This amendment is hereby made a part of the Mississippi Department of Education’s Request for Proposals (Services for Students with Dyslexia and Related Disorders). This document must be signed and returned with your response to the RFO to acknowledge that you received the amendment and that you have accounted for it in your response to the Request for Qualifications.

_________________________________________  ________________________________
Authorized Signature of Proposer  Date

_________________________________________
Printed Name of Proposer