



KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS

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Request for Proposals

Teacher Education Competitive Grant Program

Applications Due: August 15, 2007
Three-year projects are requested

Funding Period – September 15, 2007 through June 30, 2008 for year 1

Funds available - \$500,000 for year 1*
One or more proposals may be funded.

H.B. 2185 (2007) established the Teacher Education Competitive Grant Program to increase the number of teachers in hard-to-fill disciplines or in underserved geographic areas. The State Board of Education, which has this role, has determined that the hard-to-fill disciplines are mathematics, sciences, foreign languages, music, and special education. The State Board has determined that the state's underserved geographic areas are western Kansas, Wichita public schools, Kansas City public schools, and Topeka public schools.

The purpose of the Teacher Education Competitive Grant is to fund the establishment of a new teacher education program(s) or the expansion of an existing teacher education program(s) to address the needs identified above. The program may target either preservice teachers, or teachers seeking additional licensures or endorsements, or both. This initiative, which aims to provide resources to institutions, is complemented by a separate Teacher Service Scholarship Program, which seeks to provide support for students interested in pursuing teaching careers in Kansas.

This is a matching grant in which every \$2 from the grant must be matched by \$1 from the institution. Any Kansas public university is eligible to apply. For additional information, see <http://kansasregents.org/academic/Teacher%20Education.html>

*Funding for additional years is dependent upon progress reports and legislative appropriations.

Hard-to-Fill Teaching Disciplines

Adaptive (Special Education)	Foreign Language – Spanish
Functional (Special Education)	Foreign Language - French
Biology	Foreign Language - Latin
Chemistry	Foreign Language - German
Earth and Space Science	Music, Instrumental
Physical Science	Music, Vocal
Physics	Mathematics
Science, 5-8	



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June 25, 2007

Dear Colleagues:

In light of the well-documented teacher shortages across Kansas, the 2007 Kansas Legislature enacted H.B. 2185, which establishes a Teacher Education Competitive Grant Program. This grant program aims to increase the number of teachers in hard-to-fill disciplines and underserved geographic areas. I am pleased to announce that the legislature has provided \$500,000 to implement this initiative.

A Request for Proposals (RFP) has been developed to help the Board to select the state postsecondary institution(s) that will receive grant funds. I encourage you to seriously consider responding to this RFP. This is an exciting initiative for Kansas, designed to address a critical need – increasing the number of highly qualified teachers to meet the needs of Kansas students. The Board is anxious to receive your carefully crafted response to this RFP.

While this initiative will provide resources to institutions for program expansion, a complementary initiative – the Teacher Service Scholarship Program – will provide support for students interested in pursuing teaching careers in Kansas. Please contact Diane Lindeman at KBOR if you would like information about the scholarship program.

Finally, although continuing support for these initiatives is subject to future appropriations, the Board expects these two programs to receive funding over the long-term. We will certainly press for that support.

Should you have any questions about the Teacher Education Competitive Grant program feel free to contact Dr. Kathyrne Mueller (785-296-1487; kmueller@ksbor.org).

Sincerely,

Reginald L. Robinson
President and CEO

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III. HOUSE BILL NO. 2185 (2007)
(some sections have been omitted)

AN ACT concerning postsecondary education, relating to fees and tuition; relating to financial aid programs; amending K.S.A. 74-32,100 and 76-382 and K.S.A. 2006 Supp. 74-32,101, 74-32,102, 74-32,103, 74-32,105 and 76-729 and repealing the existing sections; also repealing K.S.A. 2006 Supp. 74-32,186 through 74-32,193, 74-32,201 through 74-32,208, 74-32,211, through 74-32,218 and 76-729a and 76-729, as amended by section 1 of 2007 House Bill No. 2425.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:

New Sec. 16.

(a) As used in this section:

- (1) "Board" means the state board of regents.
- (2) "Institution" means a state educational institution as defined by K.S.A. 76-711, and amendments thereto, and Washburn University.
- (3) "Program" means the teacher education competitive grant program established by this section.
- (4) "Hard-to-fill teaching discipline" means a teaching discipline in which there is a critical shortage of teachers as determined and specified by the state board of education.
- (5) "Underserved area" means a geographic area of the state in which there is a critical shortage of teachers as determined by the state board of education.
- (6) "Teacher education program" means a program specifically targeted at increasing the number of students who complete a course of instruction leading to licensure as a teacher in a hard-to-fill teaching discipline or who agree to teach in an underserved area.

(b) There is hereby established the teacher education competitive grant program. Subject to the limitations of appropriations therefor, any institution which desires to establish or expand a teacher education program may submit an application for a competitive grant of moneys in an amount to be determined by the board for the purpose of paying the costs of establishing or expanding a teacher education program and any operating expenses related thereto. Grants shall be matched on the basis of \$2 from the teacher education grant program for \$1 from the institution receiving the grant. Grant moneys may be expended for creation of new teacher education programs or the expansion of existing teacher education programs provided by an institution.

(c) In order to be eligible for a grant under this section, the institution shall submit to the board an application for a grant. The application shall be prepared in such form and manner as required by the board and shall be submitted at a time to be determined and specified by the board.

(d) The board shall establish standards and criteria for reviewing, evaluating and approving applications for grants submitted pursuant to this section. All grants shall be awarded by the board in accordance with the standards and criteria established by the board. Within the limitations of appropriations therefor, the state board shall determine the amount and number of grants and be responsible for payment of grants to institutions.

(e) Each institution which is awarded a grant under this section shall make such periodic and special reports of statistical and financial information to the board as it may request.

(f) This section shall be part of and supplemental to the teacher service scholarship program.

New Sec. 18.

(a) On or before January 14, 2009, the state board shall submit a report to the legislature relating to the administration of the teacher service scholarship program and the teacher education competitive grant program. The report shall include the following information for the time period beginning on July 1, 2007 and ending on October 1, 2008:

(1) The number of scholarships awarded under K.S.A. 74-32,102, and amendments thereto.

(2) The average amount of scholarships awarded under K.S.A. 7432,102, and amendments thereto.

(3) The aggregate amount of scholarships awarded under K.S.A. 7432,102, and amendments thereto.

(4) The number of scholarships which were awarded under K.S.A. 74-32,102, and amendments thereto to applicants enrolled in courses of instruction leading to licensure as a teacher in hard-to-fill teaching disciplines and what those hard-to-fill teaching disciplines are.

(5) The number of scholarships which were awarded under K.S.A. 74-32,102, and amendments thereto to applicants enrolled in courses of instruction leading to licensure as a teacher in an underserved area and what those underserved areas are.

(6) The number of grants awarded under section 16, and amendments thereto, and the name of the postsecondary institutions to which the grants were awarded.

(7) The average amount of grants awarded under section 16, and amendments thereto.

(8) The aggregate amount of grants awarded under section 16, and amendments thereto, and the aggregate amount awarded to each postsecondary institution.

(b) The report also shall contain information relating to the need for the program and progress made under the program including, but not limited to:

(1) The number of vacant positions on July 1, 2007, in school districts in hard-to-fill teaching disciplines or in underserved areas.

(2) The number of vacant positions in hard-to-fill teaching disciplines or underserved areas on October 1, 2008.

(3) Other information deemed necessary by the state board.

IV. Review/Selection Guidelines for Proposals

		Possible	Awarded
1.	Is the new/expanded program clearly described? Will the demographic characteristics of program completers mirror the population of the target geographic area?	8	
	Will the new/expanded program provide prospective teachers with an in-depth understanding of their teaching discipline?	8	
	Does the new/expanded program directly address the retention of program completers?	8	
2.	Does the new/expanded program include any innovative characteristics in addition to those addressed above?	5	
	Does the new/expanded program include close relationships between liberal arts and the teacher education unit, such that preservice teachers continually experience cutting-edge teaching techniques in all university courses?	8	
	Are any other distinctive characteristics described that would make the institution particularly well-suited for the program?	8	
3.	Is the assessment and evaluation plan clearly described? Does the plan use multiple types of data? Will the plan facilitate continuous improvement of the program? Does the plan have any special strengths or weaknesses?	20	
4.	Does the institution have a clear and effective plan for marketing the program and recruiting the most qualified students?	10	
5.	Is the budget clearly described and thoroughly justified? Is the budget realistic?	15	
6.	Are the project personnel highly qualified to perform their function in the project?	10	
Total		100	

Compared to other proposals, this proposal ranks _____ out of _____ (with the best proposal being ranked #1).

Comments may be provided on a separate page; below, briefly summarize the rationale for the ranking.

V. General Instructions and Submission

1. Avoid use of jargon, acronyms, and specialized terminology. The proposal should be easily understandable by a legislator or Board member.
2. Prepare the body of the proposal using the numbered headings on following pages. Provide the requested information as clearly and succinctly as possible. Number pages consecutively, with the cover page being page 1.
3. Prepare the proposal in MS Word format. Single-space the pages with double-spacing between paragraphs. Do NOT include pictures or complex graphics; these often interfere with the ability to e-mail the proposal to reviewers.
4. Section D of the proposal should be limited to a total of 15 pages.
5. Submit the entire proposal (less signatures) as an e-mail attachment to Dr. Kathyrne Mueller (kmueller@ksbor.org) by 5:00 pm August 15, 2007. An original hard copy of any pages with signatures should be forwarded by U.S. mail and should arrive at KBOR no later than August 17, 2007.
6. Contact Dr. Kathyrne Mueller (kmueller@ksbor.org) to ask any questions about the proposal.

VI. Detailed Proposal

A. Cover page

Complete the cover page found on <http://kansasregents.org/download/academic/cover%20pages.doc>

B. Summary budget

Complete the form found on <http://kansasregents.org/download/academic/bdgtsummary.doc>; delete any instructions prior to submitting the form. Be sure to read the instructions for the detailed budget prior to completing the summary budget.

C. Table of contents

Include a table of contents identifying the cover page, summary budget, and the sections of the proposal described below.

D. Body of proposal

1. New or expanded program(s)

Note that the program(s) may target preservice teachers and/or teachers seeking additional licensures or endorsements. Both categories of individuals are referred to below as “students.”

A. Thoroughly describe the program(s) for which funding is being sought. Be sure to indicate whether the program is intended to address hard-to-fill disciplines or underserved geographic areas or both. The description should include, but may not be limited to, the following:

- Number of students admitted and any admission requirements
- Description of techniques used to ensure that demographics of the students mirror demographics of the targeted geographic area
- Description of similarities to and differences from the existing program
- Description of any collaborations with other universities or community colleges; include a signed statement from the chief executive officer of the collaborating university or college.

B. Describe characteristics of the program that ensure that program completers are well-prepared in their teaching discipline. Include descriptions of procedures for assessment and evaluation of the student’s mastery of the teaching discipline.

C. Describe characteristics of the program that contribute to a long-term reduction of the teacher shortage problem; do not include service requirements of scholarship programs. For example, describe any current or planned initiatives designed to improve the retention of program completers in hard-to-fill disciplines or in underserved geographic areas (e.g. mentoring activities, professional development activities and so on), along with procedures for evaluating

the effectiveness of such initiatives. Describe any other innovative approaches (e.g. working with principals to encourage activities to enhance retention), along with assessment of the effectiveness of such approaches.

2. Distinctive institutional characteristics

Describe the distinctive characteristics that make the proposing institution a particularly good choice for this project. Do not include receipt of awards or acknowledgements; instead, include distinctive practices or outstanding program outcomes. Be sure to include any of the following:

- Description of any innovative characteristics of the new or expanded program not already described
- Description of close relationships between liberal arts and the teacher education unit, such that preservice teachers continually experience cutting-edge teaching techniques in all university courses.

3. Assessment and evaluation plan

Thoroughly describe the data collection procedures that will be used for short- and long-term follow-up to determine to what extent the goals of the grant program are met. The data shall include, but should not be limited to, the following:*

- The number of vacant positions on July 1, 2007, in school districts in hard-to-fill teaching disciplines and in underserved areas (required by statute)
- The number of teachers on July 1, 2007, in school districts in hard-to-fill teaching disciplines and in under-served areas, who are teaching subjects for which the teacher does not have either full licensure or an endorsements.
- The number of vacant positions as of October 1, 2008, in school districts in hard-to-fill teaching disciplines and in underserved areas (required by statute)
- The number of teachers on October 1, 2008, in school in school districts in hard-to-fill teaching disciplines and in under-served areas, who are teaching subjects for which the teacher does not have either full licensure or an endorsement.
- Description of techniques to estimate retention of teachers in the hard-to-fill teaching discipline(s) and/or in the underserved area(s) of the state targeted by the proposal

* If multiple grants are awarded, each funded institution will be assigned a subset of Kansas from which to collect data.

4. Marketing activities

Describe the activities that will be used to attract highly talented students for the proposed program. Also describe the marketing assessment plan that will help to maximize marketing efforts.

E. Detailed budget for year 1 of the program

Complete the form at <http://kansasregents.org/download/academic/budget.doc>; be sure to delete instructions prior to submitting the form. On a separate page, include a complete explanation

and justification of each item included in the budget, in sufficient detail that questions from legislators could be answered simply by referring to the budget justification. In the justification, be sure to identify any costs associated with reassigned time.

Recall that the matching formula is \$1 of institutional funds for every \$2 of grant funds.

Appendices

Appendix I: Project personnel

Provide a brief vitae or resume (no more than five pages) for each university faculty member, university administrator, or school district employee whose salary is included in the budget (in full or in part). If an individual is yet to be hired, include the required and preferred qualifications for the position. Include a brief vitae or resume for the three individuals most responsible for the proposed project, even if salary support is not requested for these individuals.

Appendix II: Assurances

See <http://kansasregents.org/download/academic/assurances.doc>