

RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS FOR
RFP # 1131 NYS LEARNING AND ENRICHMENT
AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM SUPPORTS (LEAPS)

SECTION 3 of 8: Districts, Schools, and Target Population(s)

Q1	<i>After looking at the School Eligible list I do not see either of our school districts listed. Does this mean our program is not eligible to apply?</i>
A1	Please review the updated RFP Attachment 10, which was posted on 2/22/2024. Programs must propose to serve a school district, or a Charter School located in a school district, listed on Attachment 10.
Q2	<i>Can we propose a school to serve that is not listed on Attachment 10, or must it be on the list?</i>
A2	See A1.
Q3	<i>Will additional school districts be added to the eligibility list?</i>
A3	No further updates to the Attachment 10 are planned.
Q4	<i>[Central Schools] meets the criteria as defined in the RFP and is listed as an eligible school district on the NYSED demographic data website. Please let us know ASAP of your decision to include [CS] on the eligibility list as we plan to apply for the LEAPS grant.</i>
A4	Please see A1 and A3.
Q5	<i>[School District 1] qualified for free and reduced lunch by direct certification with 51% of our population on SNAP or Medicare yet we were not on the list for OCFS day care funding. We share a zip code with [School District 2] who is eligible. Can you investigate this and confirm that indeed [School District 1] does qualify?</i>
A5	Please see A1 and A3.
Q6	<i>We see [community] is not listed as a target area. a. What options do we have for funding to support students in need in this community? b. In the past we were able to link our program with a program in another community. It seems this is not possible under the grant. Can an exception be made?</i>
A6	a. Please consult with your assigned regulator, if applicable, regarding your options and alternative youth services in your area. You may also monitor the OCFS (https://ocfs.ny.gov/main/contracts/funding/) and New York State Education Department (SED) (https://www.nysed.gov/funding-opportunities-procurements) websites for other grant funding opportunities. b. No. See A1 and A3.
Q7	<i>In reviewing Attachment 10 – Eligible School Districts, please clarify the information regarding NYC school districts. The attachment states NYC GEOG DIST #11 is eligible. These are the jurisdictions we know we are in: -Community PLANNING BOARD district #11 -NYC council district #13 -School district #11 Please clarify to which of these jurisdictions the Attachment is referring.</i>

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A7	Attachment 10 is the list of eligible school districts to be served for LEAPS.
Q8	The school my program is run out of is not listed, is there any reason for that? Why would it be ineligible?
A8	RFP Attachment 10 was updated on 2/22/2024 and lists school districts eligible to be served for LEAPS. Per Section 2.1 of the RFP, OCFS identified high-needs school districts as having at least 50% of the student population classified as economically disadvantaged.
Q9	<i>The not-for-profit organization I work for would like to apply for a LEAPS grant, but the school district our program is run out of is not listed in the RFP1131-Att-10-Eligible-District section.</i> a. Would you kindly state why that is? b. Is there a way we could become eligible?
A9	a. See A8. b. See A1.
Q10	In the event a group of high schools are submitting an application, will that application be considered as part of the high school district or the geographic school district?
A10	Please refer to the amended RFP posted on 2/29/2024. The updated language states that programs for LEAPS must propose to serve children that are Pre-K through age 12 at time of enrollment. High schools will not be funded by the LEAPS RFP. Please continue to check the OCFS and SED websites for other grant funding opportunities for older youth.
Q11	How will youth who are currently receiving after-school services continue to receive services if the CBO providing the services are not even eligible to apply?
A11	See A6.
Q12	Are partnerships with charter schools allowed for this RFP?
A12	A not-for-profit entity may partner with a charter school located in a school district listed on Attachment 10. See A1.
Q13	a. Provided we get a School District letter of Commitment, can NFP organizations partner with Charter Schools or is it just for Public Schools? b. How about parochial schools?
A13	a. A not-for-profit partnering with a charter school located in an eligible school district may be eligible if they meet all criteria in RFP Section 3.1. b. Parochial schools are not eligible.
Q14	<i>Our district has refused to help support our program in the past despite a great need.</i> Are we able to partner with a charter School to offer after-school and obtain the letter of commitment and partnership agreement with them? They operate as their own district and report to the state.
A14	See A12.

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Q15	<i>Charter Schools, which are considered school districts by NYSED, are neither included nor excluded in the RFP.</i> As public schools/districts, would a charter school with more than 50% poverty be eligible to partner with a CBO for a LEAPS grant?
A15	See A12.
Q16	<i>I was wondering if this RFP is exclusively for NFPs to partner with local public schools for after-school program support services or if our agency can also submit a proposal to serve local nonpublic schools. In simpler terms, can nonpublic schools participate in this program equally?</i>
A16	No. Nonpublic schools are not eligible to be served.
Q17	What happens to charter school kids or children in similar situations (i.e. currently being served through Advantage/Empire) who need after-school?
A17	See A1, A6, A12, and A13.
Q18	a. Will there be charter school eligibility? b. How will these youth receive services?
A18	See A1, A6, A12 and A13.
Q19	Why is there no mention of Charter Schools being part of this grant that are over 50% poverty level families?
A19	See A1, A12 and A13.
Q20	Does OCFS have a plan to ensure the children who are currently receiving after-school through Empire and Advantage are able to continue to receive services through the new LEAPS contracts?
A20	See A1, A6, A10, A12, and A13.
Q21	Can CBOs apply separately for Charter Schools?
A21	See A12.
Q22	For a center-based proposal, can we include students from a local private school?
A22	No. Students attending a private school are not eligible to be served. See A16.
Q23	Will Catholic schools be eligible?
A23	See A13.
Q24	<i>I understand the RFP is to serve up to three sites within a district. Does this mean only students from those three sites may attend? Or can programming be run at three sites with students attending from across the district?</i>
A24	It is permissible for students from within an eligible school district to enroll and attend programming at one of the awarded project sites, within the same school district.
Q25	May services include children in 3-K?
A25	No, as a SACC waiver cannot be granted for 3-K children. Review Childcare Policy 16-2 at: https://ocfs.ny.gov/programs/childcare/policies/Childcare-Policy-16-2-Enrollment-of-Prekindergarten-Children-in-School-Age-Child-Care.pdf and consult with the child care regional office in the area you serve.
Q26	The RFP states Pre-K and up. Is 3K excluded?

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A26	See A25.
Q27	Can we provide programming for pre-k through this grant and get a waiver as we have through our Advantage grant?
A27	Yes. A program may request and be granted a waiver to allow children enrolled in prekindergarten to also be enrolled in a SACC program.
Q28	<i>RFP Section 2.3, paragraph 5:</i> May we include Pre-K slots in our application? If yes, will LEAPS funding pay for Pre-K slots?
A28	Yes, see A27.
Q29	Will facilities that currently service Pre-K students be allowed to run before and after programming for students?
A29	See A27. Programs are required to run in accordance with OCFS regulations at 18 NYCRR Part 414.
Q30	a. If we are applying as a nonprofit working with multiple schools in one district, can they vary by grade level? b. For example, can we apply for an elementary school and a high school in one district within one proposal?
A30	a. Yes, programming can vary by grade level, but youth above age 12 at time of program enrollment are not eligible for LEAPS funding. b. No. Please refer to the amended RFP posted on 2/29/2024. The updated language states that programs for LEAPS must propose to serve children that are Pre-K through age 12 at time of enrollment. High schools will not be served by the LEAPS RFP. Please continue to check the OCFS and SED websites for other grant funding opportunities for older youth.
Q31	Can we propose for a school that is also being served with other state funding, including funding from NYSED's Extended Day/School Violence Prevention program?
A31	Applicants cannot utilize the LEAPS funding to reimburse expenses already reimbursed by other grant sources. Funds must supplement, not supplant, existing services and may not be used to supplant federal, state, or local funds. Programs may not use LEAPS initiative funds to pay for existing levels of service funded from any other source. All costs included in the direct cost categories must be directly attributable to the project. State Finance Law and Generally Accepted Accounting Principles require that any expense incurred over more than one funding source or program must be charged proportionately, and the method of allocation must be documented.
Q32	Does the definition of disconnected/high need youth include unhoused youth, or youth separated from parents because of immigration issues (ICE detention, deportation)?

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A32	The RFP Section 2.2 definition of disconnected/high need youth includes youth aging out of foster care; youth in or reentering the community from the juvenile justice system; and children of incarcerated parents. Youth separated from parents due to ICE detention and deportation would fall into this definition. However, unhoused youth, depending on their circumstances, may or may not meet this definition.
Q33	Are children arriving with migrant families who have been bused from other states considered disconnected/high need?
A33	See A32. Children arriving with migrant families, depending on their circumstances, may or may not meet this definition.
Q34	<i>Page 24 of the RFP under Section 4.0 Program Requirements, 4.1 Desired Outcomes & Program Requirements, Section B Program Operations/Logistics: Location – The RFP states that Programs operating in schools are preferred. Other sites will be considered with appropriate justification.</i> If a CBO applicant submits a proposal in partnership with the local school district to operate after school programming in THREE sites, can two sites be public schools and one site be a community-based youth center that also serves local district students?
A34	Yes, if all requirements in RFP Sections 2.3 and 3.1 are met. All three sites must be located within the same school district.
Q35	<i>Under 4.1 Desired Outcomes and Program Requirements Section B. Program Operation/Logistics, it says that "programs operating in school buildings are preferred." We currently have space for after-school programming outside of a school building but we are considering moving to a school building.</i> Can you please give us some guidance on how strong of a preference it is for programs to operate in school buildings?
A35	Applications will be scored based on the criteria listed in Section 5.4 of the RFP. While programs operating in school buildings are preferred, quality programming being provided at a site outside of a school building is still considered acceptable. Applicants should thoroughly describe their proposed sites in their applications.
Q36	Is it possible for one of the locations to be a Community-Based Organization (CBO) instead of a school?
A36	See A34.
Q37	a. How do I partner with a school district? b. And how do I fill out the form?

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A37	<p>a) Not-for-profits interested in partnering with a school district to provide these services must perform communication outreach to eligible school districts listed on Attachment 10 to see if the district is interested in partnering with the NFP and signing Attachment 5 – NFP and School District Letter of Commitment so that the NFP can apply to serve the district.</p> <p>b) Refer to the RFP Section 3.1, Attachment 5 – Letter of Commitment, and Attachment 7 – Partnership Agreement regarding what forms will be required and who should be completing them.</p>
Q38	Will OCFS consider preparing a resource document identifying the name of the person whose signature we need to obtain at the District level (for each eligible District) to submit a proposal and who that person's designated contact is (e.g. secretary) for scheduling a meeting, etc?
A38	OCFS does not have this information readily available. We recommend that you contact the Attachment 10 district Superintendents' Office that you would like to serve to obtain that information.
Q39	Can a school district partner with more than one CBO?
A39	Yes, if the CBOs meet the RFP Section 3.1 requirements.
Q40	Could a single school be involved in more than one application?
A40	Yes.
Q41	Can a school district partner with multiple CBO providers?
A41	See A39.
Q42	What kind of contractual agreement do you foresee between the CBO and the district(s) they serve?
A42	Please see RFP Attachment 5 (NFP and School District Letter of Commitment) and RFP Attachment 7 (Partnership Agreement).
Q43	What is OCFS doing to prohibit a school district “selecting” the provider they would like for their district by only agreeing to enter a memorandum with one provider, therefore only having one complete application for the district?
A43	The school district and the community-based organization's agreement to partner is independent from OCFS. It is permissible for districts to partner with only one not-for-profit; however, this is a competitive RFP, and school districts may choose whether it is in their best interest to partner with more than one NFP that meets the Section 3.1 requirements to maximize the potential of being served by this program.
Q44	<i>Even based on poverty, one can assume a district with 97% free and reduced lunch numbers would benefit from additional sites compared to districts with 51% free and reduced lunch. As an urban district with high number of vulnerable student populations (e.g. higher levels of students experiencing poverty, higher levels of students with disabilities, higher levels of immigrant/refugee populations, higher levels of families experiencing homelessness, etc.), how is limiting the sites equitable compared to districts who may not have the same levels of vulnerable populations?</i>

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A44	Please refer to the amended RFP posted on 3/13/2024 where the limit on awards per school district was removed.
Q45	<i>The [School district] records currently show a disadvantage percentage of 49% and in [Central School District] shows a disadvantage percentage of nearly 40%. Both districts offer free breakfast and lunch to all students and are certain that many eligible families will not apply or have not filled out paperwork because of this new program. Especially since post COVID when they lifted all the paperwork requirements. These ratios are so close and many children currently in these districts are receiving services. Also, there are many migrant youth and families. How can this be addressed and if currently receiving services, they will not be eligible, therefore what happens to the children and youth?</i>
A45	See A6 and A10.
Q46	<i>There are many pockets of NYS that have affluent areas and extreme poverty. In some cases, the local districts fold in schools from wealthier areas. Therefore, overall, the school district may not have 51% economically disadvantaged in the school district. So how do we cut out, for example, 48% of a school district that needs and currently receives services?</i>
A46	See A1 and A6.
Q47	<p>a. Is it permissible to provide services to both elementary and middle school sites within the same school?</p> <p>b. If so, would this be considered as separate contracts?</p>
A47	<p>a. See A30.</p> <p>b. Not necessarily. If the middle school is eligible to partner with an NFP that is applying, it could be a separate site in the same proposal and if awarded would be on the same contract as the elementary school sites, or the applicant could submit a separate proposal for the middle school site which if awarded would be a separate contract.</p>
Q48	Can a school have both a DYCD (Department of Youth and Community Development) contract and a LEAP (Learning through Expanded Access and Participation) contract simultaneously, offering two different services?
A48	See A31.