

Planning Grants

Post-award planning and design of the educational program that may include:

- (i) refinement of the desired educational results and of the methods for measuring progress toward achieving those results; and
- (ii) professional development of teachers and other staff who will work in the charter school

Allowable Activities (not an exclusive list but provided for guidance purposes)

(i) Refinement of the desired educational results and of the methods for measuring progress toward achieving those results:

- Costs directly related to obtaining, developing and implementing standardized testing, and other measurement of student achievement.
- Staff salaries and benefits prior to opening of the school and its eligibility for state school aid.
- Design and implementation of evaluation processes and feedback to staff regarding achievement of academic, contractual and other educational goals.
- Technology equipment and software required to develop and implement methods for measurement, achievement of progress, and provision of feedback to staff regarding the effectiveness of the educational methods.
- Hook-up and installation costs of technology equipment to ensure usability of the equipment in the educational program (does not include alarm systems, video camera systems used for security purposes, cellular telephones, installation of electrical wiring as part of construction or renovation costs, any routine operational expenditures associated with technology costs, e.g. Internet service costs, cable, telephone service costs, etc.).
- Legal costs directly related to charter development, planning for the school and its educational program.
- Costs directly related to compliance with legally mandated school health and safety inspections, including:
 - costs directly related to obtaining the required state and local inspections to ensure safety and health
 - minor building modifications required to ensure compliance with health and safety requirement, e.g. install grab bars, lower sinks in a restroom to ensure ADA compliance (elevator installation or repair not allowable).
- Limited office furniture, technology and office equipment required for staff to engage in the planning phase of the school start-up.

(ii) Professional development of teachers and other staff who will work in the charter school:

- Costs directly related to training, professional development of staff that will work in the charter school.
- Staff salaries prior to opening of the school and eligibility for state school aid.
- Stipends paid to staff for time spent in training during the summer, weekends, evenings, or other periods for which the staff would not normally be compensated (post school opening, provided it will be the ongoing policy/practice of the school to pay stipends to staff to participate in development/training).

- Fees to trainers/consultants external to the school to provide training, inservice, staff development.
- Reasonable costs of travel, lodging, conference fees, to enable staff to participate in training and staff development.
- Tuition reimbursement to staff for classes/training that is directly related to the school, its educational program or business operations.
- Costs of providing training and inservice for volunteer members of the school board of directors, including those cited above for school staff.

Implementation Grants

Initial implementation of the charter school, which may include:

- (i.) informing the community about the school;
- (ii.) acquiring necessary equipment and educational materials and supplies
- (iii.) acquiring or developing curriculum materials; and
- (iv.) other initial operational costs that cannot be met from State or local sources.

Allowable Activities (not an exclusive list but provided for guidance purposes)

(i) Informing the community about the school:

- Radio, print and electronic media development and dissemination costs to inform parents and the community about the school (does not include building signage).

(ii) Acquiring necessary equipment and educational materials and supplies:

- Technology equipment (computers, printers, LCD projectors, etc.) and software for use in the classroom and educational program.
- Hook-up and installation costs of technology equipment to ensure usability of the equipment in the educational program (does not include alarm systems, video camera systems used for security purposes, cellular telephones, installation of electrical wiring as part of construction or renovation costs, any routine operational expenditures associated with technology costs, e.g. Internet service costs, cable, telephone service costs, etc.).
- Texts and library books for use in the educational program.
- Desks, tables, chairs bookshelves and other equipment for use in the educational program.
- Educational supplies and materials (does not include general use office supplies and equipment).

(iii) Acquiring or developing curriculum materials:

- May include specific costs of development of curriculum or its implementation, including staff training costs related to curriculum and its alignment with state benchmarks and standards.

(iv) Other initial operational costs that cannot be met from State or local sources.

- This is much more difficult to define and will not include any: maintenance, construction, renovation, repair or ongoing operational costs.