

Ohio School Climate State Grant FAQ

1. How do I obtain an application?

Applications are available on the Ohio Department of Education [website](#).

2. How do I submit an application? What is the application deadline?

Grant applicants must upload their application information in the Department's Comprehensive Continuous Improvement Plan (CCIP) system by 5 p.m. on March 21, 2019. The Department may prioritize applications according to their submission dates and times. See question 15 for more information.

3. Who are eligible applicants for this grant?

City, exempted village and local school districts, community schools and STEM and STEAM schools.

STEM school classification includes one of the following three types:

1. Community school;
2. Public school building within a district hierarchy;
3. Chartered nonpublic school building within a nonpublic hierarchy.

4. Who are ineligible applicants for this grant?

The following are not eligible for this grant:

- Nonpublic schools that are not classified as STEM or STEAM schools;
- Schools that do not serve any grades K-3;
- Educational service centers;
- Non-chartered, non-tax supported schools.

5. What is the definition of an eligible building for this grant?

An eligible building is any building of an eligible applicant that serves any of grades K-3. That is, the school can serve any combination of grades, as long as it serves at least one grade in K-3.

Grant criteria define an eligible building as an entity with an IRN, since that is the lowest-level unit for which data is available.

6. How can community schools with one IRN but multiple schools apply?

Community schools in this scenario will be awarded the maximum grant amount of \$5,000.

7. What are STEAM/STEM schools?

[Ohio Revised Code 3326.01](#) defines STEM and STEAM as:

- i. STEM is an abbreviation of "science, technology, engineering, and mathematics."
- ii. "STEAM" is an abbreviation of "science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics."
 1. A science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics school will be considered a type of science, technology, engineering and mathematics school.

2. A STEAM school equivalent will be considered a type of STEM-school equivalent.

STEM and STEAM schools apply to the Department for this designation.

8. What are allowable expenses for this grant?

The grant provides funds to implement Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports frameworks, evidence- or research-based social and emotional learning initiatives, or both, in eligible buildings. Expenses for such implementation may include:

- Training programs;
- Supplies for training;
- Contracts and contracted services;
- Salary and fringe benefits for attendees; and
- Transportation expenses for attending training.

9. What are unallowable expenses for this grant?

Unallowable expenses include the following:

- Indirect costs;
- Salary and fringe benefits for personnel for work time already covered by a state or federal grant;
- Food and/or beverages;
- Equipment; and
- Purchases not directly related to and used for PBIS or social-emotional learning trainings.

10. How much funding will eligible applicants receive?

Eligible applicants may apply for up to \$5,000 per eligible school building and up to \$50,000 altogether. Applications requesting more than the allowable amount will be reduced accordingly.

11. How will buildings be evaluated for funding?

While districts will submit applications on behalf of their buildings, the Department will review each building included in the application individually. Each building's award will not to exceed \$5,000, and each district's total will not exceed \$50,000.

12. How many applications may an eligible applicant submit?

Eligible applicants may submit only one application. The applicant may include multiple buildings within that application. Again, the Department will evaluate each building individually.

13. What is the statewide economically disadvantaged rate? How is it calculated?

For the purposes of this grant, the Department will use the economic disadvantaged percent from the Ohio School Report Cards for the 2017-2018 school year. The state average of that rate will be the threshold, calculated as 50.3 percent.

14. How is high suspension rate defined?

High suspension rate is defined as an out-of-school suspension rate above the average out-of-school suspension rate for all eligible buildings, which is 13 percent. The definition of high suspension includes only out-of-school suspensions to further the goals of Ohio House Bill 318, including reducing out-of-school suspensions for Ohio's youngest learners.

15. How will applications be evaluated?

The Department will give first priority to eligible buildings whose economically disadvantaged rate is above the statewide average. While districts will submit applications on behalf of their buildings, the Department will review each building individually.

Second priority is given to buildings with high suspension rates. While districts will submit applications on behalf of their buildings, the Department will review each building individually. If two buildings have the same out-of-school suspension rate, the Department will award grants in the order it received their applications.

For the remaining funding, the Department will prioritize all other eligible buildings in the order it received their applications.

16. [How is evidence-based defined?](#)

“Evidence-based” is an activity, strategy or intervention that demonstrates a statistically significant effect on improving student outcomes based on strong evidence from at least one well-designed and well-implemented experimental study; moderate evidence from at least one well-designed and well-implemented quasi-experimental study; promising evidence from at least one well-designed and well-implemented correlational study with statistical controls for selection bias; or demonstrates a rational based on high-quality research findings or positive evaluation that such activity, strategy or intervention is likely to improve student outcomes and includes ongoing efforts to examine the effects of such activity, strategy or intervention.

17. [What is Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports \(PBIS\)?](#)

PBIS is a decision-making framework that guides selection, integration and implementation of the best evidence-based academic and behavioral practices for improving important academic and behavior outcomes for all students.

18. How is research-based defined?

To be considered research-based, the research must employ systematic, empirical methods that draw on observation or experiment; involve rigorous data analysis that are adequate to test the stated hypotheses and justify the general conclusions; rely on measurements or observational methods that provide valid data across evaluators and observers and across multiple measurements and observations; and be accepted by a peer-reviewed journal or approved by a panel of independent experts through a comparatively rigorous, objective and scientific review.

19. How is social-emotional learning defined?

Social-emotional learning is the process through which children and adults acquire and apply the knowledge, attitudes and skills necessary to understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships and make responsible decisions.

20. What is the grant award timeline?

The Department will select and notify applicants no later than April 30, 2019.

21. What are the grant reporting requirements?

Districts and schools that receive these grants may be required to submit invoices, training records and/or report of activities. Grantees must maintain all grant records for three years following submission of their final reports.

22. When must funds be expended by?

Funding is available for use through June 30, 2020. The Department may grant extensions upon request through two years from the date of award (April 2021).

23. Who can I contact for more information?

For more information, contact the Office of Integrated Student Supports at pbisohio@education.ohio.gov or by phone at (614) 466-2945.