

Ohio School Climate Grant Fiscal Year 2020 Frequently Asked Questions

1. How do I obtain an application?

Applications are available on the Ohio Department of Education [website](#) under the *Ohio School Climate Grant* section.

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

Grant applicants must upload their application information in the Ohio Department of Education's Comprehensive Continuous Improvement Plan (CCIP) system by 3:59 p.m. on March 12, 2020. The Department may prioritize applications according to their submission dates and times. See question 18 for more information.

3. Who are eligible applicants for this grant?

City, exempted village and local school districts, community schools and educational service centers are eligible for grants. If a district or educational service center is applying for more than one building, all grant application materials must be coordinated and submitted at once. See question 6 for more information.

Who are ineligible applicants for this grant?

The following are not eligible for this grant:

- Nonpublic schools;
- Schools that do not serve any grades K-3;
- Non-chartered, non-tax supported schools.

4. Are educational service centers eligible applicants?

Yes, educational service centers may apply for up to \$5,000 per eligible building, with a total award up to \$50,000. Educational service centers are encouraged to coordinate with districts to ensure there are not multiple applications submitted per building. If two applicants apply for the same building, the district of responsibility for the building will be awarded.

5. Can districts apply for buildings that were awarded the 2018-2019 Ohio School Climate Grant?

Yes. However, if funding is insufficient, priority within the priority level will be given to eligible applicants whose grant proposals serve one or more eligible school buildings that previously have not been served through a school climate grant. See question 18 for more information.

6. What are the required parts of the application?

A complete application packet must include the following:

1. One Fiscal Year 2020 Grant Contact Form uploaded as an attachment in the CCIP. The form and instructions can be found [here](#);
2. One Grant Assurances and Application Signature Page uploaded as an attachment in the CCIP. The form and instructions can be found [here](#);
3. A Building Application Page for **each** building for which funding is requested uploaded as **one** attachment in the CCIP. The form and instructions can be found [here](#);

4. A completed budget within CCIP that reflects the overall requested funding amount for the district.

Completed applications include **three** attachments uploaded in the CCIP and a completed budget in the CCIP.

7. Where do I find the grant application?

The application and all required attachments are available on the [Creating Caring Communities](#) webpage on the Ohio Department of Education website. Once completed, applicants must upload the application into the CCIP. Additionally, applicants must complete the budget section in the CCIP.

8. How do I submit a grant application?

The person submitting the application must be a CCIP authorized district or educational service center representative. A district or educational service center may apply for multiple buildings; however, the CCIP will only allow one grant submission. Be sure to have all documents for each building combined into one PDF uploaded into CCIP before submitting the application within CCIP.

9. 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.

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

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

11. 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;
- Supplies and incentives in coordination with training and implementation of programming;
- Contracts and contracted services;
- Salary and fringe benefits for attendees; and
- Transportation expenses for attending training.

12. What are unallowable expenses for this grant?

Unallowable expenses include the following:

- Indirect costs;
- Funding supplies and incentives only. Supplies and incentives will be considered only if they are used in conjunction with training.
- 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 to support Positive Behavioral Interventions and

Supports frameworks, evidence- or research-based social-emotional learning initiatives.

13. 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.

14. How will buildings be evaluated for funding?

While districts or educational service centers submit applications, the Department will review each building included in the application individually. Each building's award will not exceed \$5,000, and each district's total will not exceed \$50,000. Details on award criteria and funding are listed in the Request for Applications found [here](#).

15. 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.

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

For the purposes of this grant, the Department will use the economically disadvantaged percent from the Ohio School Report Cards for the 2018-2019 school year. The state average of that rate will be the threshold, calculated as 49.7 percent.

17. How is high suspension rate defined?

High suspension rate is defined, using data from the 2018-2019 school year, as an out-of-school suspension rate above the average out-of-school suspension rate for all eligible buildings, which is 13.8 percent. The definition of high suspension includes only out-of-school suspensions to further the goals of Ohio's legislature, including reducing out-of-school suspensions for Ohio's youngest learners.

18. How will applications be evaluated?

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

Second priority will be 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 the applications.

For the remaining funds, the Department will prioritize all other eligible buildings in the order it received the applications. It may use a timestamp within the first and second priority to further prioritize, if necessary.

19. 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 rationale 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.

20. 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 analyses 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 accepted by a peer-reviewed journal or approved by a panel of independent experts through a comparatively rigorous, objective and scientific review.

21. What is [Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports](#)?

Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports 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.

22. 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.

23. What is the grant award timeline?

The Department will select and notify applicants no later than April 2020.

24. What are the grant reporting requirements?

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

25. When must funds be expended by?

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

26. 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.