**STATE OF MAINE REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS**



**RFA INFORMATIONAL MEETING and**

**SUBMITTED QUESTIONS & ANSWERS SUMMARY**

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| **RFA NUMBER AND TITLE:** | 202202018 - Community Schools |
| **RFA ISSUED BY:** | Department of Education,  Office of School and Student Supports |
| **SUBMITTED QUESTIONS DUE DATE:** | April 7, 2022, no later than 11:59 p.m., local time. |
| **QUESTION & ANSWER SUMMARY ISSUED:** | April 11, 2022 |
| **PROPOSAL DUE DATE:** | April 28, 2022, no later than 11:59 p.m., local time. |
| **PROPOSALS DUE TO:** | [Proposals@maine.gov](mailto:Proposals@maine.gov) |

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| **\*** | **Important Information** |
| Below is a PowerPoint presentation of the Community Schools RFA Informational Session. It is recommended to be reviewed by all prospective respondents. |
| **Hyperlink** |
| March 28th Informational Session Recording – RSU #202202018 |

**Provided below are submitted written questions received and the Department’s answers**

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| **1** | **Question** |
| Does the Economically Disadvantaged percentage reflect the district or the school? |
| **Answer** |
| Chapter 333 specifies language that the Commissioner “will prioritize SAUs in which at least 40% of the students are economically disadvantaged pursuant to section 15675, subsection 2.” We interpret this as SAU to mean the district and not the individual schools. |

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| **2** | **Question** |
| Are there previously designated community schools currently in Maine? |
| **Answer** |
| RSU #34 participated in the pilot that began in 2017, and their coordinator, Jennifer Goodwin, has shared her email if interested districts would like to connect with her. She can be reached at [Jennifer.goodwin@rsu34.org](mailto:Jennifer.goodwin@rsu34.org). |

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| **3** | **Question** |
| Talbot Elementary is a community school funded locally. Are they considered a previously designated school? |
| **Answer** |
| No, they did not receive funding under Chapter 333 and would be considered a new grant applicant. |

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| **4** | **Question** |
| What are you looking for as "evidence" for the eligibility assurance (board minutes, action, memo?) and how should it be included in the application? For instance, would you like an excerpt from the document pasted into the box that says "evidence" or should we be attaching additional documentation in the email when we send in the application? |
| **Answer** |
| Attaching the minutes from the board meeting are sufficient. |

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| **5** | **Question** |
| When reporting on current community partners, should a school report out on all the community partners the district has, or only specific partnerships they have that are targeted for the school that we are identifying as a community school? |
| **Answer** |
| Focus on the partnerships that are targeted for the school you are identifying as the community school yet be mindful that some district partners may impact that school as well. |

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| **6** | **Question** |
| Our team is wondering if part of the grant budget can be used for scholarships for students who can't afford dental care?   We are wanting to have local assessments and cleanings. |
| **Answer** |
| If the community school has engaged a community partner that provides dental care, funds may be proposed to support this approach. See [**§9921. Definitions**](http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/statutes/20-A/title20-Asec9921.html)**.** |

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| **7** | **Question** |
| The grant is due April 28th, and then reapplications are due May 15th - is that correct? Or do I just submit the reapplication plan since the awards will not be announced until June? |
| **Answer** |
| Existing community schools from Ch. 333 are only expected to submit a reapplication due May 15th to [proposals@maine.gov](mailto:proposals@maine.gov). If the SAU is applying for an additional grant, that application is due April 28th to [proposals@maine.gov](mailto:proposals@maine.gov). |