

# **REQUEST FOR APPLICATION**

## **EXEMPLARY ACADEMIC PROGRAMS FOR AMERICAN INDIAN STUDENTS**

**NEW MEXICO PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT  
INDIAN EDUCATION DIVISION**



## REQUEST FOR APPLICATION

### EXEMPLARY ACADEMIC PROGRAMS FOR AMERICAN INDIAN STUDENTS

#### PURPOSE

The Indian Education Division of the New Mexico Public Education Department requests applications for **the study, development and implementation of exemplary programs that positively affect the educational success of American Indian students** required in Article 23A, Sections 22-23A-1 to 22-23A -8 NMSA 1978, the Indian Education Act enacted by the 46<sup>th</sup> Legislature of the State of New Mexico.

#### BACKGROUND

During the 2003 Legislative session, the Indian Education Act was passed and signed into law. The purpose of the law is to:

1. Ensure equitable and culturally relevant learning environments, educational opportunities and culturally relevant instructional materials for American Indian students enrolled in public schools;
2. Ensure maintenance of native languages;
3. Provide for the study, development and implementation of educational systems that positively affect the educational success of American Indian students;
4. Ensure that the department of education partners with tribes to increase tribal involvement and control over schools and the education of students located in tribal communities;
5. Encourage cooperation among the educational leadership of Arizona, Utah, New Mexico, and the Navajo Nation to address the unique issues of educating students in Navajo communities that arise due to location of the Navajo Nation in those states;
6. Provide the means for a formal government-to-government relationship between the state and New Mexico tribes and the development of relationships with the education division of the bureau of Indian affairs and other entities that serve American Indian students;
7. Provide the means for a relationship between the state and urban American Indian community members to participate in initiatives and educational decisions related to American Indian students residing in urban areas;

8. Ensure the parents; tribal departments of education; community-based organizations; the department of education; universities; and tribal, state and local policymakers work together to find ways to improve educational opportunities for American Indian students;
9. Ensure that tribes are notified of all curricula development for their approval and support;
10. Encourage an agreement regarding the alignment of the bureau of Indian affairs and the state assessment programs so that comparable information is provided to parents and tribes; and
11. Encourage and foster parental involvement in the education of Indian students.

The funding for this Request for Application (RFA) will go to schools that (1) serve a significant number of American Indian students, (2) have established and implemented exemplary academic programs proven effective in increasing the academic achievement of American Indian students, (3) have narrowed the achievement gap between American Indian students and their non-Indian peers, and (4) established and implement exemplary academic programs that supports the implementation of state content standards and benchmarks.

Program outcomes established are (1) replication of a demonstrated effective exemplary program that contributes to the academic success of American Indian students and that which is culturally and linguistically appropriate and relevant to the American Indian students served by such a program; and 2) the establishment of collaborative partnerships with Indian tribes for the purpose of implementing effective programs and strategies.

## **DEFINITIONS**

**Exemplary Program for American Indian Students** –A proven successful academic program for American Indian students that can be replicated and used as a model for improving the academic achievement of American Indian students.

Request for Applications (RFAs) should address the factors that affect the academic achievement of American Indian students by incorporating strategies that are proven effective in improving the teaching and learning of American Indian students. RFAs that demonstrate the following strategies are more apt to be funded.

Strategies that:

- Collect and analyze American Indian student academic data, e.g. New Mexico Standards Based Assessment (CRT) for grades impacted by the program for the purpose of establishing baseline data and trends;
- Study and address the factors that affect the American Indian students' academic achievement assessment scores such as family challenges, school climate, language barriers, and health and special needs issues;

- Curriculum and instruction are aligned to the New Mexico Content Standards, Benchmarks, and Performance Standards;
- Focus on active student learning and the development of higher order skills;
- Establish partnerships with American Indian parents and tribal communities to improve the students' learning as measured by state mandated assessments and other locally identified assessments and indicators,
- Maintain accurate monitoring of attendance records;
- Utilize curriculum that draws upon the American Indian world views and expands upon the personal experiences of the American Indian students;
- Effective teaching strategies for ESL or ELL students; and
- Programs that can be replicated in schools with similar student demographics.

**ELIGIBILITY**

Eligible applicants must be a New Mexico public, charter, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) school or a partnership of these agencies. In order to apply for these funds, the public, charter, BIA school must serve American Indian students. Schools that reside in a school district with more than one eligible campus may apply for separate programs in each campus or apply for a program that serves multiple sites.

There will be grants awarded from \$20,000 to \$50,000. Grants will be awarded during the 2006-2007 school year, and programs will be funded through June 2007. Funds may be utilized for costs related to personnel, training, resource materials, supplies, transportation, lodging, and substitute pay, registration fees for Indian students and Indian parents, or stipends.

**SEQUENCE OF EVENTS:**

The Indian Education Division will adhere to the following schedule:

<b><u>Action:</u></b>	<b><u>Date:</u></b>
Issuance of Application	May 11, 2006
Pre-Application Conference	May 22, 2006
Application Due Date	June 9, 2006
Application Evaluation	June 12-16, 2006
Award Notifications	June 16, 2006

**QUESTIONS ABOUT THE REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS**

The Indian Education Division will conduct a pre-application conference. The pre-conference is scheduled on **May 22, 2006, Mabry Hall, NMPED at 10:00 AM.** The New Mexico Public Education Department has designated Ms. Barbara J. Alvarez, Program Manager for the Indian Education Division-Santa Fe Bureau, as the contact person for this Request for Application. Prospective applicants with questions should contact:

Barbara J. Alvarez, Program Manager  
New Mexico Public Education Department  
Indian Education Division  
Jerry Apodaca Education Building, Room 127  
300 Don Gaspar Avenue  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501  
(505) 827-6679  
[barbara.alvarez@.state.nm.us](mailto:barbara.alvarez@.state.nm.us)

Applications are available on the Indian Education Division website:

<http://www.ped.state.nm.us/indian.ed/index.htm>

### **APPLICATION DUE DATE**

The application must be submitted to the address indicated above no later than **5:00 P.M. on June 9, 2006**. Facsimile copies will not be accepted. Requests for an extension of this date will not be granted.

Additional copies of this Request for Application can be obtained by contacting the Indian Education Division at the NM Public Education Department at 827-6679 or at the following location:

Indian Education Division  
Northwest Indian Education Bureau  
907 N. Metro  
Gallup, New Mexico 87301  
(505) 722-0318

### **REQUIRED FORMAT**

**Applications must be typewritten on the forms and space provided. Attachments will be accepted for letters of endorsement and commitment only. Please DO NOT exceed the space provided for each section of the application. The following is required:**

1. Application Cover Page and Demographic Information (Section I)
2. Application (Section II) including:
  - a. Statement of Need
  - b. Goals and Expected Outcomes
  - c. Services and Activities
  - d. Work Plan
  - e. Line Item Budget and Justification
  - f. Public schools (need to attach a BAR)
  - g. Local Evaluation Plan

3. Assurances (Section III)
  - a. School/District Assurance
  - b. Assurance of Obtaining Written Agreements
  
4. Letters of Endorsement and Commitment from Community Agencies and Organizations; Tribal Governments and/or Tribal Departments of Education and Navajo Chapter Houses.

**CRITERIA FOR SELECTION/EVALUATION**

<b>Evaluation Criteria</b>	<b>Possible Points</b>
Evidence that the funds requested are based on identified student needs	10
Measurable goals aligned to expected outcomes of the program	10
Identification of services and activities to be provided by the program	30
Work plan for the program including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staffing requirements and expected availability of staff</li> <li>• Hours of operation of the program, justification for time(s) the program will be available</li> <li>• Strategies for dissemination of information about the program to potential users</li> <li>• Training and professional development plans for staff, include in the plan a commitment to attend at least 2 NM PED/Indian Education Division sponsored training/professional development as associated with the Indian Education Act</li> <li>• How the work plan connects with the school/district’s Educational Plan for Student Success (EPSS) for the purpose of narrowing the achievement gap between American Indian students and their peers</li> <li>• Line Item Budget and Justification</li> <li>• Public Schools (need a BAR)</li> </ul>	40
Local Evaluation Plan – description of the applicant’s independent local evaluation plan and how it will be used to evaluate the progress toward meeting the expected program outcomes: goals, services, and activities.	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

Selection of funded applications will be based on the above evaluation criteria.

**Section I**  
**Applicant Cover Page and Demographic Information**

School District: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Superintendent: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (505) \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (505) \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Requested \$ \_\_\_\_\_

School(s) included in this application:

School Name: Address:	Principal: Email: Phone:
School Name: Address:	Principal: Email: Phone:
School Name: Address:	Principal: Email: Phone:
School Name: Address:	Principal: Email: Phone:
School Name: Address:	Principal: Email: Phone:
School Name: Address:	Principal: Email: Phone:
School Name: Address:	Principal: Email: Phone:
School Name: Address:	Principal: Email: Phone:

Total number of **Native American students** to be served through this application: \_\_\_\_\_

Ethnic Breakdown of population served:

<b>Actual Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	
		Hispanic
		Anglo
		American Indian/Native American
		Black/African American
		Asian
		Hawaiian/Pacific Islander/Other

Brief description of the School Profile to include the academic achievement of its enrolled American Indian students, i.e., data disaggregated by grade level (NM Standards Based Assessment and other locally identified assessments); NMPED/NCLB school designation; level of Indian parent/community involvement in the education process; number of American Indian students identified as English Language Learners (ELLs) and the number receiving services to address their special needs, etc.



## **Section II Application**

### **Statement of Need**

Describe the need for an Exemplary Academic Program for American Indian students in the school(s) included in this application. Provide data to substantiate the academic needs of the students and specify other non-academic student indicators that relate to student success, i.e., social needs, learning styles, attendance, dropout rate, etc. (10 Points)

### **Goals and Expected Outcomes**

Describe the goals and expected outcomes for an Exemplary Academic Program for American Indian students in the school(s) included in this application. Goals should be for one year and must be measurable and should align with the definition of the program. (10 Points)

### **Services and Activities**

Describe the services and activities that will be provided by the Exemplary Academic Program for American Indian students in the school(s) included in this application. Refer to the definition of Exemplary Academic Program for American Indian students and the Expected Strategies. (30 Points)

### **Work Plan**

Describe the work plan for an Exemplary Academic Program for American Indian students in the school(s) included in this application. (40 points)

- A. Describe the staffing requirements, the expected availability of staff, hours of operation for the program and include a justification for time(s) the program will be available. ( 10 Points)
- B. Describe strategies for dissemination of information about the exemplary program to potential users and community. ( 10 Points)
- C. Describe the training and professional development plans for staff, include in the plan a commitment to attend at least 2 NM PED/Indian Education Division sponsored training/professional development as associated with the Indian Education Act. ( 5 Points)
- D. Describe how the work plan connects with the school/district's Educational Plan for Student Success (EPSS) for the purpose of narrowing the achievement gap between American Indian students and their peers. ( 5 Points)
- E. Line Item Budget and Justification – Include all program related costs for the program, i.e., personnel, training, resource materials, supplies, transportation, lodging, substitute pay, registration fees for Indian students/parents, and stipends. Indicate in-kind expenses. (10 points)

### **Local Evaluation Plan**

Description of the applicant's independent local evaluation plan and how it will be used to evaluate the progress toward meeting the expected program outcomes: goals, services, and activities. (10 Points)





**District Assurance to Involve American Indian Tribe(s)**

The applicant must establish, or begin the process of establishing, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the American Indian tribe(s) affected. The MOU is for the purpose of coordinating and communicating with the American Indian tribe(s) on educational issues related to the implementation of this grant and as they affect American Indian students.

I, the undersigned, assure that the district is serving American Indian students and that a Memorandum of Understanding has been or will be established for the purpose of collaborating and communicating with the American Indian tribe(s) that send their Indian students to our funded schools.

District Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Superintendent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date