



JOY HOFMEISTER  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT *of* PUBLIC INSTRUCTION  
OKLAHOMA STATE DEPARTMENT *of* EDUCATION

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** The Honorable Members of the State Board of Education

**FROM:** Joy Hofmeister

**DATE:** November 15, 2016

**SUBJECT:** Proposed Qualified Zone Academy Bond (QZAB) Allocation

The Oklahoma State Board of Education has the authority to approve \$9,938,000 from the 2015 and 2016 allocations and has the capacity to authorize the issuance of this amount in QZABs.

The QZAB Program is not for new construction and has minimal or no interest. Also, a district must have at least thirty-five percent (35%) of the students eligible for free or reduced-priced lunches under the federal school lunch program. The District must also create a Zone Academy with a public or private partnership to enhance the academic curriculum, increase employment and graduation rates, and better prepare students for the rigors of college and the increasingly complex work force.

The State Department of Education is accepting applications from school districts until all funds have been allocated. Alex Public Schools is requesting \$1,000,000 for upgrading technology throughout the district.

Approval is recommended.

jh/nh

Attachments

## Qualified Zone Academy Bonds

### 210:40-83-1. Purpose

The rules of this Subchapter have been adopted in accordance with the federal Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997 for the purpose of providing procedures for solicitation, acceptance, and evaluation of applications for Qualified Zone Academy status.

### 210:40-83-2. Definitions

The following words and terms, when used in this Subchapter, shall have the following meaning unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

**"Qualified contribution"** means any contribution of a type and quality acceptable to the eligible local education agency (LEA) of equipment to be used in the qualified zone academy; technical assistance in developing curriculum or in training teachers in order to promote appropriate market-driven technology in the classroom; services of employees as volunteer mentors; internships, field trips, or other educational opportunities outside the academy for students; or any other property or service specified by the eligible local education agency.

**"Qualified purpose"** means rehabilitating or repairing the public school facility in which the academy is established, providing equipment for use at such academy, developing course materials for education to be provided at such academy, and training teachers and other school personnel in such academy.

**"Qualified Zone Academy"** means any public school or academic program within a public school which is established by and operated under the supervision of an eligible local education agency to provide education or training below the postsecondary level if such school or program is designed in cooperation with business to enhance the academic curriculum, increase graduation and employment rates, and better prepare students for the rigors of college and the increasingly complex work force; students in such public school or program will be subject to the same academic standards and assessments as other students educated by the LEA; the comprehensive education plan of such school or program is approved by the LEA; and the school is located in an empowerment zone or enterprise community or there is a reasonable expectation that at least 35 percent of the students attending the school or program will be eligible for free or reduced-cost lunches under the National School Lunch program

### 210:40-83-3. Procedures for solicitation and acceptance of district applications

- (a) A notification letter will be sent by the State Department of Education to each district superintendent or elementary superintendent announcing the availability of the application forms for Qualified Zone Academy status.
- (b) The notification will clearly state the name and telephone number of the contact person at the Department who administers the program.
- (c) The signature of the superintendent of the local education agency must appear on the application.
- (d) The application and three copies must be submitted to the contact person. A specific deadline will be clearly stated in the application solicitation letter. This date may vary from year to year depending upon availability of funds.
- (e) The applications will be accepted and funds allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.
- (f) Applications must be fully completed and satisfy all criteria in order to be considered.
- (g) All applications must include the following:
  - (1) Public school must be located in an empowerment zone or enterprise community OR have 35 percent of the students (or participants in the program) must be eligible for free or reduced-cost lunches under the Federal school lunch program.
  - (2) The school must enter a public-private partnership.
  - (3) The academic program of the school must be designed in cooperation with business to enhance the academic curriculum, increase graduation and employment rates, and better prepare students for the rigors of college and the increasingly complex work force.

- (4) The school must have commitments for substantial business support and qualified contributions of at least 10 percent of the capital provided. Qualified contributions include: equipment for use in the school, technical assistance in developing the curriculum or in training the teachers, services of employees as volunteer mentors, internships, field trips, or other educational opportunities outside the academy, or other property or service specified by the local school board.
- (5) Ninety-five percent or more of the proceeds of the issue must be used for a qualified purpose.
- (6) The issuer of the bond or loan must certify that it has written assurances that the private business contribution requirement will be met with respect to the school.
- (7) The issuer of the bond or loan must certify that it has the written approval of the local school board for the issuance.
- (h) The maximum bonding amount which can be requested under the Qualified Zone Academy Bond program is \$1,000,000.
- (i) After evaluation, the State Superintendent will recommend to the State Board of Education those applications which have been determined to be eligible for funding.

#### **210:40-83-4. Evaluation procedure**

Applications will be evaluated to ensure that all criteria set out in the enabling legislation has been met. The applications will be accepted and allocations granted on a first-come, first-served basis for the amount requested in the application to the extent possible under Oklahoma's allocation. If an application can only be partially-funded, the local education agency requesting the allocation will be given the option of taking a lesser amount or deferring to the next applicant on the list.

#### **210:40-83-5. Return of unused allocation**

- (a) Any local education agency which receives an allocation under the Qualified Zone Academy Bond program but does not utilize the full amount of the allocation will notify the contact person at the State Department of Education of the amount not used. Notification will occur at such time as the local education agency is reasonably sure a portion of the allocation will not be used. The purpose of the notification will be to "return" the unused portion of the allocation to the State Department of Education for reallocation to other qualified applicants.
- (b) Upon notification by a local education agency of an unused portion of an allocation, the administrator of the program at the State Department of Education will determine if qualified applications for the Qualified Zone Academy Bond program remain unfunded. If such applications exist, the procedures for funding cited in section 210:40-83-3 (i) of this subchapter will be followed. If no qualified applications exist, the returned allocation will be held over to the next funding year and allocated at that time.

JOY HOFMEISTER  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION  
OKLAHOMA STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
2016-2017 QUALIFIED ZONE ACADEMY APPLICATION

SCHOOL DISTRICT 261056 Alex PS. SCHOOL SITE (If Applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS 209. S. 2nd St.

CITY Alex STATE OK ZIP 73002

TELEPHONE NUMBER 405-785-2605 FAX NUMBER 405-785-2914

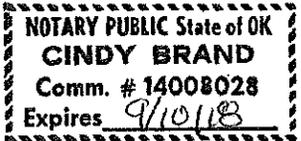
CONTACT PERSON JASON M. JAMES TITLE Superintendent

AMOUNT OF BOND REQUESTED \$ 1,000,000.<sup>00</sup> (\$1,000,000 MAXIMUM)

I hereby certify that this application is complete and truthful to the best of my knowledge.

Jason M. James  
Superintendent

Cindy Brand 10/11/16 9/10/18  
Notary Date Commission Expires



**NOTICE:** All sections of this application must be fully completed in order for this application to be considered for Qualified Zone Academy status: Please submit the original to the:

State Department of Education  
Financial Accounting, Room 420  
2500 North Lincoln Blvd.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105-4599

**JOY HOFMEISTER  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION  
OKLAHOMA STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

**Definitions:**

**“Qualified contribution”** means any contribution of a type and quality acceptable to the eligible local educational agency (LEA) of equipment to be used in the qualified zone academy; technical assistance in developing curriculum or in training teachers in order to promote appropriate market-driven technology in the classroom; services of employees as volunteer mentors; internships, field trips, or other education opportunities outside the academy for students; or any other property or service specified by the eligible LEA.

**“Qualified Zone Academy”** means any public school or academic program within a public school which is established by and operated under the supervision of an eligible LEA to provide education or training below the postsecondary level if such school or program is designed in cooperation with business to enhance the academic curriculum, increase graduation and employment rates, and better prepare students for the rigors of college and the increasingly complex work force; students in such public school or program will be subject to the same academic standards and assessments as other students educated by the LEA; the comprehensive education plan of such school or program is approved by the LEA; and the school is located in an empowerment zone or enterprise community or there is a reasonable expectation that at least 35 percent of the students attending the school or program will be eligible for free or reduced-price lunches under the National School Lunch program.

**“Qualified purpose”** means rehabilitating or repairing the public school facility in which the academy is established, providing equipment for use at such academy, developing course materials for education to be provided at such academy, and training teachers and other school personnel in such academy.

**“Davis-Bacon Act”** means all laborers and mechanics employed by contractors or subcontractors on projects funded by Qualified Zone Academy Bond proceeds shall be paid wages and fringe benefits at rates not less than those prevailing on similar projects in the locality.

**NOTICE: All sections of this application must be fully completed in order for this application to be considered for Qualified Zone Academy status.**

**JOY HOFMEISTER  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION  
OKLAHOMA STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

**Statement of Assurances by the Superintendent:**

- (1) This public school is in an empowerment zone or enterprise community  
\_\_\_\_\_ (initial)

**OR**

Thirty-five percent (35%) or more of the students (or participants in the program) are eligible for free or reduced-price lunches under the federal school lunch program.

\_\_\_\_\_ (initial)

- (2) This school has entered into Zone Academy Program with a public-private partnership which will result in a qualified contribution to the school of at least ten (10) percent of the capital provided. Qualified contributions include: technical assistance in developing curriculum or in training teachers in order to promote appropriate market-driven technology in the classroom; services of employees as volunteer mentors; internships, field trips, or other educational opportunities outside the academy for students; or any other property or service specified by the eligible local education agency. Please provide written details of the Zone Academy Program.

\_\_\_\_\_ (initial)

- (3) Please provide a brief description of the partnership, including the private partner, the program or benefit to the school and the dollar equivalent benefit to the school.

\_\_\_\_\_ (initial)

- (4) The program has been designed to enhance the academic curriculum, increase graduation and employment rates, and better prepare students for the rigors of college and the increasingly complex work force.

\_\_\_\_\_ (initial)

- (5) Ninety-five percent (95%) of the proceeds of this bond will be used for a qualified purpose. Please describe the proposed use of the proceeds.

\_\_\_\_\_ (initial)

- (6) In accordance with the Davis-Bacon Act, all laborers and mechanics employed by contractors or subcontractors on projects funded by QZAB proceeds shall be paid wages and fringe benefits at rates not less than those prevailing rates on similar projects in the locality.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Superintendent's Signature

October 20, 2016

Dr. James,

Please allow this letter to serve as the necessary documentation needed for the public – private partnership between Alex Independent School District 56 of Grady County and Smith and Nephew, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Together we agree to form a Zone Academy Program for the benefit of Alex Public School teachers and their students. Smith and Nephew agrees to provide staff development trainings for your teachers and seminars for your students in the medical device field.

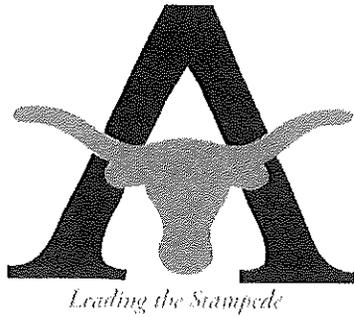
It is Smith and Nephew's goal to partner with Oklahoma school district's like Alex to help schools prepare their students for career opportunities in the Science, Technology, and Math fields.

We look forward to partnering with Alex Public Schools in this opportunity to promote education and community involvement.

Sincerely,



Joe Rayburn  
Group Director Operations  
Smith & Nephew, Inc.



# Home of the Longhorns

October 4, 2016

Dr. Jason James  
Alex Public Schools  
P.O. Box 188  
Alex, OK 73002

Please allow this letter to serve as the appropriate documentation of the Alex Independent School District number 26I056 brief description of the partnership for the Qualified Zone Academy Application. Alex Public Schools has entered into a public-private partnership with Smith and Nephew. Smith and Nephew, out of Oklahoma City, is a leading Medical device engineering, manufacturing, and sales company. They employ hundreds of employees with college degrees in the area of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math fields. This partnership will allow Alex PS students, parents, teachers, and other education community stakeholders to build relationships with members of the STEM field and to begin to see what STEM related fields are available to today's 21<sup>st</sup> century learners. Furthermore, our teachers will be able to gain firsthand knowledge of the skills necessary for our students to gain to be competitive in the STEM workforce.

This public – private partnership with Smith and Nephew will entail Alex Public Schools bringing students to Smith and Nephew's plant for tours, seminars with engineers and other employees, and other employees pertaining to the medical device manufacturing field. Smith and Nephew will provide time for their employees to give lectures, job shadowing, tours, laboratory experience, etc to ensure Alex Public Schools students, parents, teachers, and educational community stakeholders develop a firsthand understanding of STEM careers and/or authentic learning lessons within the STEM career field.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. James'.

Dr. Jason James, Superintendent  
Alex Public Schools  
P.O. Box 188  
Alex, OK 73002

**JOY HOFMEISTER  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION  
OKLAHOMA STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

**Statement of Assurances by the Issuer of the Bond or Loan:**

1. I certify that I/we have received written assurances that the private business contribution requirement will be met with respect to the school.
2. I certify that I/we have the written approval of the local school board for the issuance of the bond.
3. I am/we are reasonably certain investors can be found to purchase these bonds.

*J. Rose*

Authorized Person (Signature)

Jane He Rogers

Authorized Person (Print Name)

FNB+T

Bonding or Loan Company

Box 1130

Address

Chickasha, OK.

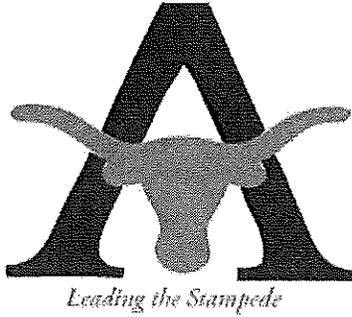
City, State, Zip

785-7291

Telephone Number

Oklahoma State Department of Education

	Free	% Free	Reduced	% Reduced	Free & Red.	Enrollment	% Low Income
510 - NINNEKAH MS	68	55.28%	15	12.20%	83	123	67.48%
705 - SENIOR HS	81	59.12%	15	10.95%	96	137	70.07%
<b>District On-Site* Total</b>	<b>316</b>	<b>57.98%</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>10.64%</b>	<b>374</b>	<b>545</b>	<b>68.62%</b>
<b>District Total<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>316</b>	<b>57.98%</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>10.64%</b>	<b>374</b>	<b>545</b>	<b>68.62%</b>
<b>I056 - ALEX</b>							
105 - ALEX ES	183	80.62%	0	0.00%	183	227	80.62%
715 - ALEX HS	52	56.52%	13	14.13%	65	92	70.65%
<b>District On-Site* Total</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>73.67%</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>4.08%</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>77.74%</b>
<b>District Total<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>235</b>	<b>73.67%</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>4.08%</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>77.74%</b>
<b>I068 - RUSH SPRINGS</b>							
105 - RUSH SPRINGS ES	163	56.01%	28	9.62%	191	291	65.64%
505 - RUSH SPRINGS MS	61	51.69%	14	11.86%	75	118	63.56%
705 - RUSH SPRINGS HS	80	48.78%	15	9.15%	95	164	57.93%
<b>District On-Site* Total</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>53.05%</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>9.95%</b>	<b>361</b>	<b>573</b>	<b>63.00%</b>
<b>District Total<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>304</b>	<b>53.05%</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>9.95%</b>	<b>361</b>	<b>573</b>	<b>63.00%</b>
<b>I095 - BRIDGE CREEK</b>							
105 - BRIDGE CREEK ES	299	38.83%	86	11.17%	385	770	50.00%
505 - BRIDGE CREEK MS	114	38.13%	29	9.70%	143	299	47.83%
705 - BRIDGE CREEK HS	115	27.25%	48	11.37%	163	422	38.63%
<b>District On-Site* Total</b>	<b>528</b>	<b>35.41%</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>10.93%</b>	<b>691</b>	<b>1,491</b>	<b>46.34%</b>
<b>District Total<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>528</b>	<b>35.41%</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>10.93%</b>	<b>691</b>	<b>1,491</b>	<b>46.34%</b>
<b>I097 - TUTTLE</b>							
105 - TUTTLE ES	157	25.86%	32	5.27%	189	607	31.14%
110 - TUTTLE INTERMEDIATE ES	59	22.52%	17	6.49%	76	262	29.01%
505 - TUTTLE MS	95	21.06%	33	7.32%	128	451	28.38%
705 - TUTTLE HS	80	14.87%	31	5.76%	111	538	20.63%
<b>District On-Site* Total</b>	<b>391</b>	<b>21.04%</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>6.08%</b>	<b>504</b>	<b>1,858</b>	<b>27.13%</b>
<b>District Total<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>391</b>	<b>21.04%</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>6.08%</b>	<b>504</b>	<b>1,858</b>	<b>27.13%</b>
<b>I099 - VERDEN</b>							
105 - VERDEN ES	128	66.67%	21	10.94%	149	192	77.60%
705 - VERDEN HS	38	44.71%	11	12.94%	49	85	57.65%
<b>District On-Site* Total</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>59.93%</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>11.55%</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>71.48%</b>
<b>District Total<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>166</b>	<b>59.93%</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>11.55%</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>71.48%</b>



# Home of the Longhorns

October 11, 2016

Dr. Jason James  
Alex Public Schools  
P.O. Box 188  
Alex, OK 73002

Please allow this letter to serve as the proposed budget for Alex Public Schools Qualified Zone Academy Bond Application:

Total Amount -	\$1,000,000.00
5-12 <sup>th</sup> grade Site IT-	\$200,000.00
Classroom Technology	\$250,000.00
STEM Lab	\$100,000.00
Fiber/Connectivity	\$150,000.00
Server Closet	\$150,000.00
Student Use Devices	\$75,000.00
Teacher Use Devices	\$25,000.00
Wifi & Device Charging	\$50,000.00

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jason M. James'.

Dr. Jason James, Superintendent  
Alex Public Schools  
P.O. Box 188  
Alex, OK 73002