District and school leaders:

Thank you so much for your interest in the **Oklahoma Schools COVID-19 Prevention Program Grant (Project 723)**, funded by the Centers of Disease Control (CDC) and offered in collaboration with the Oklahoma State Department of Health and Oklahoma State Department of Education. Below are answers to questions submitted by districts that may be helpful as you strategize to expend grant funds in the most impactful way.

1. Is random testing a requirement of the grant? We are currently testing students and staff by their requests only.
   In order to comply with the grant parameters, schools must design a plan to test 10% of their student enrollment each month. For example, if your high school has 500 students, 50 tests should be administered each month. We have removed the reference to "random testing" from the guidance, as you may choose to test students participating in activities that require close contact where masking is not feasible. In this example, you could choose to test students participating in vocal music, football, band, wrestling, and drama. In this case, students would have the option be tested as a result of their participation in the activity.

2. Since the grant is due October 10th and the Board will not meet again until after that, will there be an extension to the grant application deadline?
   While there is a finite amount of available funding, grants will be awarded beyond the deadline as long as funds are available.

3. What if parents refuse consent?
   Under the parameters of the grant, students are not required to participate in testing.

4. What happens if a school does not reach the 10% target in a given month?
   The requires each school to design a plan to test 10% of enrollment each month. However, we know that unforeseen challenges may prevent a school from reaching the 10%. The grant requires schools to make a good faith effort to test 10% each month, but there is no penalty of repayment of funds if the school falls short of the target during a specific time period.

   While student testing is the focus of the grant, can teachers, coaches, activities sponsors, administrators, school staff, volunteers, or lay coaches be tested also? Can we test 10% of students and get additional tests for school personnel?
   Yes and yes. The target of testing 10% can be a combination of proactive, voluntary asymptomatic testing and reactive, symptomatic testing.

5. As with the high school example above, 50 tests would be administered monthly for a student enrollment of 500. The goal of the grant is to mitigate COVID through student testing, however school personnel and volunteers can be counted in the monthly target of 50 tests. For any given month, the target of 50 tests could be achieved by testing a combination of 50 students, school personnel, and volunteers from the school site.

6. Can we get the grant but not do any student testing?
   No. The CDC requires Covid testing as a condition of receiving grant funds.

7. Can we use the testing to determine early return from quarantine?
   Yes.

8. Can we pay for nurse or health-related personnel from this grant?
   Yes.

9. Can we pay for cleaning and custodial personnel and supplies from this grant?
   Yes.

10. Can we pay for new construction from the grant?
    No.

11. Can I budget for a position if I do not have the person hired yet?
    Yes. In GMS, enter "Pending" for staff name and "Unverified" for their status. Contact Heather.Young@sde.ok.gov for questions regarding school personnel records.

12. Can we lease a space for safe COVID testing with grant funds?
    Yes.

13. Can we purchase a computer for use in tracking/reporting testing?
    Yes.

14. Who do we contact for other questions regarding OCAS coding for the grant?
    Katherine.Black@sde.ok.gov

15. Do we have to purchase testing from the grant amount shown in GMS?
    No. Your district will receive tests and PPE at no charge against the grant amount shown in GMS. Tests and PPE can be ordered through OSDH's Big Commerce site and will not impact your grant allocation. Ordering details will be provided upon confirmation of grant award.

16. Who can administer the covid-19 tests to students?
    Students 12 and over can self-administer tests. Gloves and masks are provided with the tests to ensure that students and/or any designated adult can administer tests safely. Among other eligible expenditures, the grant can pay for personnel to administer tests and report data in SIRS.

17. Are schools required to report test results in the State Infection Reporting System (SIRS)?
    Yes.

18. Which non-public schools are eligible to apply for service or assistance under the Emergency Aid for Non-public Schools (EANS) program (OSDE EANS **FAQs,** p. 6)?
    For purposes of the EANS program, an eligible non-public school is an elementary or secondary school that—
    o Is non-profit;
    o Is accredited, licensed, or otherwise operates in accordance with State law;
    o Was in existence prior to March 13, 2020, the date the President declared the national emergency due to COVID-19; and
    o Did not, and will not, apply for and receive a loan under the Small Business Administration's Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) (15 U.S.C. 636(a)(37)) that is made on or after Dec. 27, 2020.

If you have additional questions about the grant, please contact:
Kathy Dodd, Ph.D.
Chief Innovation Officer and Deputy Superintendent of Federal Programs

Oklahoma State Department of Education
kathy.dodd@sde.ok.gov