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**Request for Application (RFA) for**

**More Rigorous Intervention (MRI)**

**Champion & Provide Choice**

**Title I Sec.1003 [a]**

**Every Student Succeeds Act**

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| **CFDA Number: 84.010A**  **Deadline to Submit RFA:**  **February 26, 2018** |

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| *This is only a Request for Application (RFA) and does* ***NOT*** *constitute an award. Should this RFA result in an award, the LEA Superintendent/Charter Director will be notified by an official award letter. Only upon receipt of an award letter, signed by Secretary Designate Ruszkowski, may the LEA/charter school submit a Budget Adjustment Request (BAR).* |

**New Mexico Public Education Department**

**300 Don Gaspar Ave,**

**Santa Fe, NM**

**87501**

**New Mexico Public Education Department: School Improvement 1003[a]**

1. **Background**

Under New Mexico’s previously-approved ESEA waiver, the state committed to the following plan for chronically failing schools:

“If after four years of intervention there is not consistent and sustainable growth within a Priority School or school with an overall grade of F, the PED may consider other options such as school closure, reconstitution, or other external management providers to completely redesign a school.”

At present, New Mexico has schools that fall under this legacy policy: Five elementary schools have earned four straight failing (F) ratings while another thirteen have earned three failing ratings (F) in the last four years. It cannot be ignored that schools in this category have failed generations of children[[1]](#footnote-1).

New Mexico has identified a total of four schools for More Rigorous Interventions (MRI), two schools that are chronically failing and have earned six continuous “F” grades since 2012 and two schools that have earned five continuous “F” grades since 2013. LEAs with identified chronically failing schools are required to identify one of the following more rigorous interventions:

1. **Closure:** Close the school and enroll the students who attended that school in other schools in the surrounding area that are higher performing.
2. **Restart:** Close the school and reopen it under a charter school operator that has been selected through a rigorous state or local authorizer review process.
3. **Champion & Provide Choice:** Champion a range of choices in an open system that focuses on new approaches to learning; one that keeps the individual student(s) at the center of accessing options that best support their learning path. There must be clear evidence that choice has been championed for the impacted students.

Choices may include:

* Public charter schools
* Magnet schools
* Private schools
* Online learning
* Homeschooling

This may also include the creation and expansion of state or local school voucher programs[[2]](#footnote-2).

1. **Significantly restructure and redesign the vision and systems at a school** including extending instructional time, significantly changing staffing to include only educators earning effective, highly effective, or exemplary ratings and above, state-selected curriculum approaches, and/or personalized learning models for all students.

This option may also include a hybrid approach of the three options outlined above. The PED will approve all elements and sub-elements of the school’s plan.

1. **Purpose**

The primary purpose of the MRI Request for Application process is to provide LEAs with schools identified as MRI the opportunity to apply for additional funding through a competitive grant process to support participation in an evidence-based school improvement program or innovative school interventions. This may be in addition to or in support of state-sponsored programs funded via targeted investments.

LEAs may submit multiple applications in response to this RFA, however; **only separate and complete applications for each MRI school will be accepted.**

A full list of MRI schools is available on the NM PED ESSA in New Mexico page:

<http://www.ped.state.nm.us/ped/ESSA.html>

1. **Project Period**

For applications, the full project period for this grant is three years. Continuation funding after each period of the project is contingent upon progress toward meeting achievement goals, leading indicators, fidelity of implementation of required model actions, and maintenance of all grant requirements.

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| **Project Period Timeline** | |
| Applications Released by PED | December 5, 2017 |
| Letter of Commitment to PED (Appendix A) | January 26, 2018 |
| Applications Due to PED | February 26, 2018 |
| Announcement of Awards | March 2018 |
| Planning Period for LEA/Schools | March 2018 to June 30, 2018 |
| Year-One Implementation Period | July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019 |
| Year-Two Implementation Period | July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020 |
| Year-Three Implementation Period | July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 |

**Proposal Requirements: Champion & Provide Choice**

Equity is at the heart of School Choice. PED believes all students should have access to quality schools, regardless of background or address, empowering parents with more options to determine the schools where their children learn best.

If the LEA chooses to apply for Champion & Provide Choice they agree to the following:

1. All kindergarten through 12th-grade students are guaranteed a spot at their neighborhood boundary school.
2. LEAs will hold regional school choice expos to provide information to parents, families and community members regarding the process and system for school choice prior to the school choice window being opened.
3. School Choice communications to families, including the release of the applications.
4. When considering how a school is serving its students, the LEA will looks at six different areas and provide an overall rating based on the percentage points scored in all areas.
5. Student Achievement - Status: How students perform on state assessments in a given year
6. Student Progress over Time - Growth: Progress students show on state assessments from one year to the next
7. Parent Engagement and Satisfaction: How a school connects with families and parents
8. Equity: How a school is serving student regardless of background, ethnicity, or ability.
9. Postsecondary Readiness: How high schools prepare students for college and career.
10. Postsecondary Growth: How high schools prepare students for college and career over time.
11. LEAs will provide parents/guardian’s an opportunity to rank their students’ top five school preferences.
12. The LEA will match students to schools based on those preferences, as well as school admission priorities and available space.
13. The School Choice system designed by the LEA will maximize the number of students who are placed in their most-preferred school.
14. **Full Application Submission**

Complete applications **must** be submitted electronically through the Priority Schools Bureau portal available at the following link: [ped.psb@state.nm.us](mailto:ped.psb@state.nm.us).

In addition, one original application plus one hardcopy **must** be mailed by postal service to:

New Mexico Public Education Department

Attn: Debbie M. Rael

Deputy Cabinet Secretary, School Transformation

Room 123

300 Don Gaspar Avenue

Santa Fe, New Mexico 85701

Complete hardcopy applications must be postmarked by February 26, 2018, and complete electronic copies must be submitted through the Priority Schools email portal ([ped.psb@state.nm.us](mailto:ped.psb@state.nm.us)) no later than 4:00 p.m. on February 26, 2018.

1. **Review and Approval**

PED will review the LEAs proposed MRI Champion & Provide Choice application and either approve or deny the plan. If the plan is denied, PED reserves the right to select the MRI for the school.

If the district refuses to identify an MRI to participate in, the PED will select the MRI for the school.

**Champion & Provide Choice**

**Application Cover Sheet**

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| **LEA Information** | |
| **LEA Name** | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| **LEA NCES ID #** | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| **Superintendent** | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| **Superintendent email** | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| **Mailing Address** | Click or tap here to enter text. |

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| **Amount the LEA is requesting from Title I School Improvement 1003[a] funds** | |
| **March 2018 to June 30, 2018** | $Click or tap here to enter text. |
| **July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019** | $Click or tap here to enter text. |
| **July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020** | $Click or tap here to enter text. |
| **July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021** | $Click or tap here to enter text. |
| **Total Funds** | $Click or tap here to enter text. |

1. **Application Narrative Requirements**
2. The application narrative should **not exceed 30 pages** (not including proposed budget).
3. It should betyped, single-spaced, with LEAs addressing each of the subsections by entering text where indicated.
4. Font may NOT be less than 12 pt. Times New Roman.
5. Budget does not require 12 pt. Times New Roman font.
6. The complete LEA application including budgets, charts, and forms will be posted on the PED ESSA webpage.
7. **Application Narrative Champion & Provide Choice**

Describe how the LEA will establish a system that looks at six different areas and provides an overall rating based on the percentage points scored in each area.

1. Student Achievement - Status: How students perform on state assessments in a given year
2. Student Progress over Time - Growth: Progress students show on state assessments from one year to the next
3. Parent Engagement and Satisfaction: How a school connects with families and parents
4. Equity: How a school is serving student regardless of background, ethnicity, or ability.
5. Postsecondary Readiness: How high schools prepare students for college and career.
6. Postsecondary Growth: How high schools prepare students for college and career over time.

Click or tap here to enter text.

Describe how the LEA will develop an application process that provides parents/guardian’s an opportunity to rank their students’ top five school preferences.

Click or tap here to enter text.

Describe the system the LEA will develop that matches students to schools based on those preferences. School admission priorities and available space is to be considered.

Click or tap here to enter text.

Describe the multifaceted communication strategy developed by the LEA that communicates clearly too all stakeholders about choice options and provides opportunities to partner with community organizations.

Click or tap here to enter text.

Describe the steps will the LEA take to build the district infrastructure needed to support and implement school choice to include the assignment and coordination of responsibilities, determinations of space and transportation options, and the information-processing capacity.

Click or tap here to enter text.

Describe the communication infrastructure that will be put in place to inform schools and all stakeholders about choice to include:

1. Preparing schools to communicate with parents
2. Supporting receiving schools
3. Supporting schools to market their programs to parents

Click or tap here to enter text.

Describe the processes the LEA will implement to improve programs over time by:

1. Tracking parent choices and school enrollments
2. Surveying parents about satisfaction and reasons for choices

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. **Budget Requirements**

The budget documents requested in response to this RFA must identify and explain funded costs for activities that are necessary to carry out all aspects of the whole-school change. In addition, through the budget narrative, the LEA will be asked to identify other sources and amounts of funding that will support and sustain the activities that are crucial to rigorous implementation of the chosen evidence-based intervention.

* **Budget Narrative**

The budget narrative, described in the Proposal Narrative sections of this RFA, should identify and explain all funded costs for the entire project period (planning period, two years of implementation).

* **Budget Summary Chart**

This chart summarizes the budget for the entire project period, three years of implementation.

1. **Additional Budget Guidance and Appropriate Costs**

Funds are intended to *supplement* and *support* comprehensive school reform by funding ***specific*** initiatives designed to promote targeted and sustainable school improvement. The actions and practices identified through each category of the project narrative drive the appropriate costs.

Appropriate costs are those costs that are directly connected to the actions and to sustaining the practices prompted in the categories of the project narrative (e.g., the implementation of a curriculum aligned the Common Core State Standards (CCSS), continuous use of data to drive decision making, extended/expanded learning time, etc.).

It is incumbent upon the applicant to demonstrate the close connections between the costs proposed and the organizational or pedagogical purposes those costs will support from the project narrative.

1. **Budgeting and Planning for Sustainability**

In budgeting and planning for sustainability, LEAs should be certain to support critical, ongoing activities through reliable and stable funding sources. In budgeting and planning for sustainability, funds should support but not serve as the sole source of funding for this work.

**Required Signatures**

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| *Superintendent Signature* | Date |

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| *School Board President’s Signature* | Date |

**Appendix A: Commitment Letter Example**

*Insert Date*

Secretary-Designate Christopher N. Ruszkowski

Public Education Department

300 Don Gaspar Avenue

Santa Fe, NM, 87501

Dear Secretary Ruszkowski:

The *(insert district)* commits to implementing the following More Rigorous Intervention in *(insert name of school)* for the 2018-2021 school years *(insert name of chosen More Rigorous Intervention).*

Sincerely,

Insert name of Superintendent

Superintendent, (insert district name)

cc: *insert names of school board president, school principal, and any other locally identified district, community or school board members.*

1. New Mexico Rising: New Mexico’s State Plan for the Every Student Succeeds Act, pg. 107 (2017). New Mexico Public Education Department, Santa Fe, NM. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Vouchers are currently prohibited under New Mexico state law. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)