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**Request for Application (RFA) for**

**More Rigorous Intervention (MRI)**

**Restart**

**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 |
| Commitment Letter due 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: Restart**

This option could provide access to federal charter school program grant funds awarded to New Mexico to start new schools or grow or replicate successfully operating schools. This may take a variety of pathways:

1. Closing the school at the end of the current fiscal year and turning the facility over to a charter school that has already received approval by the district as a local authorizer or the PEC as a state authorizer to serve some or all of the grades currently served by the school through a rigorous state or local authorizer review process.
2. Closing the school at the end of the current fiscal year and releasing an RFA, limited to non-profit EMOs and charter school operators with a strong track record of successfully serving students, on an expedited submission and review timeline to restart the school as a charter school, which would be locally authorized, in the next fiscal year.
3. Commit to closing the school at the end of the next fiscal year, and release an RFA on a standard timeline to reopen and restart the school as a charter school, which would be either locally or state authorized, after the next fiscal year.
4. **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 Restart 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.

**Restart Application Cover Sheet**

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| --- | --- |
| **LEA Information** | |
| **LEA Name** |  |
| **LEA NCES ID #** |  |
| **Superintendent** |  |
| **Superintendent email** |  |
| **Mailing Address** |  |

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| --- | --- |
| **School Information** | |
| **Name of School** |  |
| **School NCES ID #** |  |
| **Principal** |  |
| **School Address** |  |
| **School Phone Number** |  |
| **Grades Served in grant year 1** |  |
| **Grades Served in grant year 2** |  |
| **Grades Served in grant year 3** |  |
| **2017-2018 Student Enrollment** |  |

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| --- | --- |
| **Amount the LEA is requesting from Title I School Improvement 1003[a] funds** | |
| **School Year** | **TI School Improvement 1003[a] funds budgeted** |
| **Planning Period for LEA/Schools** | $ |
| **Year 1-SY 2018-2019** | $ |
| **Year 2-SY 2019-2020** | $ |
| **Year 3-SY 2020-2021** | $ |
| **Total Funds** | $ |

1. **Application Narrative Requirements**

**Restart Pathway One**

The LEA commits to closing the school at the end of the current fiscal year and turning the facility over to a charter school that has already received approval by the district as a local authorizer or the PEC as a state authorizer to serve some or all of the grades currently served by the school through a rigorous state or local authorizer review process.

1. The LEA must identify the school and provide evidence of the rigorous application review process, and provide evidence of the approval.

Click here to enter text.

1. The LEA must demonstrate how you have evaluated the charter offering (whether a network-based replication or a new application) to determine that it has the kind of track record that meets the ESSA’s evidence requirements[[3]](#footnote-3).

Click here to enter text.

1. The LEA provides a facility agreement demonstrating a legally binding commitment that the facility will be turned over to the school no later than July 1.

Submitted

*Attached as an appendix to this document*

1. **Application Narrative**

**Restart Pathway Two**

The LEA commits to closing the school at the end of the current fiscal year and releasing a Request for Application (RFA), limited to non-profit Education Management Organizations (EMOs) and charter school operators with a track record of successfully serving high needs students, on an expedited submission and review timeline to restart the school as a charter school, which would be locally authorized, in the next fiscal year.

1. The LEA has provided the RFA, the RFA timeline, and all evaluation documents. Submitted

*Attached as an appendix to this document*

1. The LEA has provided a commitment letter to evaluate, select, and contract with an appropriate charter school option to enable opening no later than July 1.

Submitted

*Attached as an appendix to this document*

1. The LEA has provided a commitment letter to fulfill the requirements of another MRI option if no charter operator is identified through the process.

Submitted

*Attached as an appendix to this document*

1. The LEA has demonstrated how the RFA will ensure that the charter offering (whether a network-based replication or a new application) has the kind of track record that meets the ESSA’s evidence requirements[[4]](#footnote-4).

Click here to enter text.

**Non-profit Education Management Organizations (EMOs) or Charter School Operators**

Describe the rigorous review process the LEA has conducted or will conduct of the non-profit Education Management Organizations (EMOs) or charter school operators that it has selected or will select to operate or manage the school.

The LEA must consider the extent to which the schools currently operated or managed by the selected EMO/charter school operators have produced strong results over the past three years (or over the life of the school, if the school has been open for fewer than three years) in student achievement, success in gap closure, high school graduation rates, when applicable, and no significant compliance issues, including the areas of civil rights, financial management, and student safety.

1. Describe the EMO or Charter Operator’s design and planned implementation of the restart model to increase student achievement.

Click here to enter text.

1. What identified needs will receive priority?

Click here to enter text.

1. Provide a plan to address prioritized needs. Please include action steps and a timeline the school will undertake. .

Click here to enter text.

**Effective Leadership**

1. Describe the EMO or Charter Operator’s plan to ensure the school is led by an effective leader.

Click here to enter text.

1. Provide the criteria used for principal selection.

Click here to enter text.

1. Provide action steps and a timeline the school will undertake to support this element.

Click here to enter text.

1. Describe the EMO or Charter Operator’s plan to ensure the teachers in the school have earned effective, highly effective, or exemplary.

Click here to enter text.

1. What is the plan for screening and hiring of effective staff? Include required teaching credentials.

Click here to enter text.

1. Provide action steps and a timeline the school will undertake to support this element.

Click here to enter text.

**Enrollment**

1. Describe the school’s process for student enrollment?

Click here to enter text.

1. How does the EMO or Charter Operator ensure that all former students of the school who wish to attend the restarted school are enrolled?

Click here to enter text.

1. **Application Narrative**

**Restart Pathway Three**

The LEA commits to closing the school at the end of the current fiscal year, and release an RFA on a standard timeline to reopen and restart the school as a charter school, which would be either locally or state authorized, after the next fiscal year

1. The LEA has provided the RFA, RFA timeline, and all evaluation documents.

Submitted

*Attached as an appendix to this document*

1. The LEA has provided a commitment letter to evaluate, select, and contract with an appropriate charter school option to enable opening no later than July 1 after the next fiscal year.

Submitted

*Attached as an appendix to this document*

1. The LEA has provided a commitment letter to fulfill the requirements of another MRI option if no charter operator is identified through the process.

Submitted

*Attached as an appendix to this document*

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.

**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.

**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)
3. Schools identified for MRI must ensure that they identify and implement interventions reflecting one of the highest three levels of evidence (Strong, Moderate, and/or Promising).

   Strong: at least one well-designed and well-implemented experimental study (i.e., a randomized controlled trial).

   Moderate: at least one well-designed and well-implemented quasi-experimental study.

   Promising: at least one well-designed and well-implemented correlation study with statistical controls for selection bias. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. ibid [↑](#footnote-ref-4)