

Request for Investment: Student Mental Health Supports
School Year 2023-24 and 2024-25

Questions and Answers (Q&A)

Updated: August 23, 2023

#	Question:	Response	Date & Origin of Question	Date Answered
1	We are considering using this funding to focus on adult learning and professional development in service of student mental health. Will proposals that include adult learning be rated less favorably than ones that directly serve students, or does the adult learning support the student protective factors piece?	<p>Adult learning and professional development that clearly translates to improved student mental health supports are acceptable to include in your school's proposal. Schools are encouraged to draw a clear connection in their proposal between the adult learning and/or professional development and detail how these will benefit student mental health.</p> <p>See Appendix D: Recommended Interventions of the Needs Assessment to see three examples of how training teachers & school staff can support student mental health at your school.</p>	8/16; Info Session	8/23/23
2	Will proposals that feature existing partnerships between our school and community organizations be scored more favorably than new partnerships that we pursue using this funding?	Proposals will be scored based on the RFI Scoring Criteria in Appendix B on page 12 of the application. Applications that propose support for existing and/or new partnerships with community-based organizations are permitted and neither approach will be seen as being scored more favorably than another. Readiness is one of the four main scoring criteria and the criteria that applicants should clearly articulate in their proposal how prepared current or future partnerships with community-based organizations are to achieve outcomes with students. Readiness refers to a school's ability to successfully implement the proposed intervention across a range of readiness factors that include a strategic vision for how CSR student mental health supports fit into the broader landscape of student services offered at your school, collective "buy-in" from school leadership and staff on this vision, and ability to effectively partner with community, family and students to accomplish the vision.	8/16; Info Session	8/23/23

3	<p>In addition to the content of the proposal, will the process we take to develop our proposal influence scoring?</p> <p>For example, if we create a proposal that is strongly supported by engagement with students, families, and staff would that be weighted more heavily than if the proposal was developed by the school leadership team.</p>	<p>This funding opportunity seeks proposals that are strong both in their planned mental health supports and the level in which the school community (students, families, staff, etc.) was engaged in planning or will be engaged in implementation and will be scored based on RFI Scoring Criteria in Appendix B on page 12 of the application.</p> <p>Given that the timeline between the RFI release (August 10) and when proposals are due (September 15) overlapping with the start of the new school year, there may be limited opportunities and/or capacity to fully engage the school community on every item in your proposal before you must submit it. If this is the case with your school, you can instead detail your plans to conduct that engagement during the review process (September 15 - October 20) and/or immediately upon award notification (October 20). If you take this approach, please speak to how you will commit to incorporating this engagement into what you included in your proposal.</p>	8/16/23; Info Session	8/23/23
4	<p>To what extent to schools have flexible use of dollars and what are the boundaries around eligible vs. non-eligible uses of funds?</p> <p>If we propose to set aside some funding for students to decide how to purpose, or if we as the school leadership team want to purpose funds for items that generally enhance a positive environment at school, how do we determine if those plans are appropriate for the spirit of this RFI? We've heard directly from students that they need opportunities to build positive relationships with their peers and teachers, share community-building experiences, and just experience joy connected to their learning environment. As a specific example, students proposed attending</p>	<p>Please review Appendix A: Recommended Interventions (page 8) of the RFI application. While this is not comprehensive, it will give you an insight into the breadth of what DEEL considers an eligible use of funding for this investment. You should also review the Needs Assessment Report for additional context and terminology explanation.</p> <p>Building protective factors through positive experiences such as relationship- and community-building helps improve student mental health outcomes. The Learning Community helped frame the importance of students feeling like they can have fun with their peers and through their school and how that fortifies the mental health of the school community. In Appendix A: Recommended Interventions, we share that sample activities "where students are able to engage with one another to develop relationships and strengthen community" such as "exercise groups, art/crafting, meditation, sports intramural leagues" can support a positive school climate and relationships with peers and adults at school.</p>	8/16/23; Info Session	8/23/23

	a Mariners game or participating in a similar outing. We believe this does creatively address the root causes of a lot of mental issues and students' feelings of disconnectedness from their peers and the community by bolstering a feeling of connection to one another.			
5	The RFI states that there are four eligible applicants and that DEEL expects to award 2 - 3 schools. Is there a scenario where all four schools receive funding, or is this truly a competitive process?	<p>This RFI is a competitive process and will be based on how your proposal is scored using the Scoring Criteria. Four schools have been invited to apply for funding based on proposals that range from a minimum of \$113,843 to a maximum of \$227,687 per school.</p> <p>DEEL expects that schools will opt to apply for the full amount of funding available. If an eligible school declines to submit a proposal, and/or any school submits proposals for less than the maximum amount, the number of schools expected to receive awards may shift.</p>	8/16/23; Info Session	8/23/23