Q & A
SUCCEED Florida -- Career Paths Program

Posted June 24, 2005

Q. Are the Projected Performances, Expenditures and Revenues Charts in the application required since Career Paths is a secondary project?

A. No. The charts are not required and the application has been revised as of June 24 to reflect this deletion.

Q. A ten point bonus is awarded to an applicant with a school performance grade of "F." Should 2004 or 2005 data be used for that determination?

A. The possible bonus points are available to those schools identified as "F" schools in the current 2005 FCAT school report.

Q. Would the use of a qualified external evaluator increase the competitiveness of an application?

A. The use of an external evaluator is an allowable expense, and if included as part of the application, it must be made clear how that expenditure would support accountability and education efforts.

Q. Since Early Childhood Development is not on the Targeted Occupation List as a high skill/high wage occupation, does that eliminate an application proposing an academy in that area?

A. No. It is a high demand occupation and is included on the Supplemental Demand Occupations List.

Q. Are charter schools eligible to apply for SUCCEED Florida -- Career Paths Program grants?

A. Yes, charter schools are public schools and eligible to apply through their school district for these grants. The application must be submitted by the school district and must be signed by the district school superintendent.

Q. What constitutes a "student identified" as referenced in the RFP under "Reporting Outcomes" section?

A. Project recipients must agree to provide student identifiers to the department that will enable the school and the department to collect and report student performance data for five years. The student identifier should be the "*Florida Student Number Identifier*" used to report information regarding each student on the department's student data base. The school must identify the students enrolled and participating in the career academy in this manner to enable the district and state to collect data on the cohort of students enrolled in this program and track students until they graduate from high school.

Q. If the district plans to apply for these funds to plan and design a career academy to open in fall of 2006, how should the district address the issues of baseline data and school improvement plans?

A. The RFP clearly states that funds must be used to implement a career academy for 2005-06, redesign a career academy for 2005-06, or plan and design a career academy for 2006-07. The application must clearly address and support one of the three options. If the district chooses to apply for a planning and design grant, the application must address the planning process and include such information as research, baseline data for the district high schools which will feed into the career academy, plans for professional development, and how the career academy will be addressed in the school improvement plan (goals, objectives, strategies, evaluation, etc).

Q. The RFP included a list of performance measures for evaluating the career and professional academy. Why was Vocational Gold Seal not included on the list?

A. The RFP states that the application must clearly outline the plan for evaluating the academy, students, and progress toward meeting the program goals and must include baseline data. The evaluation must include, but not be limited to, the specified performance measures that included the percent of seniors who earn a college assessment test score at or above the minimum level required by the Bright Futures Medallion Scholarship Program. The SUCCEED Florida -- Career Paths Program was established to develop and implement a rigorous, research-based education program that combines relevant academic and technical curricula around a career theme. The intent is for students to be prepared for postsecondary education and the world of work. Therefore, the department wants to collect and report data on students' preparation for postsecondary education. The minimum scores on the ACT or SAT required for the Bright Futures Medallion Scholarship Program is an indication of successful preparation for postsecondary education. The district may also wish to include student performance data related to the Vocational Gold Seal.

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