

**Nebraska Department of Education’s Office of Special Education
District Targeted Improvement Plan Support (DTIPS) Grants, 2016-17**

ANNOUNCEMENT OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY: Results Driven Accountability (RDA)

Purpose	Nebraska Department of Education’s (NDE) Office of Special Education is accepting proposals to support implementation of District Targeted Improvement Plans (TIPs). Funds must be used to assist with the deep implementation of evidence-based practices designed to improve the outcomes of students with disabilities. Projects must demonstrate a high degree of collaboration among special and regular education and support/supplement the framework of ongoing district continuous improvement practice(s).
Eligible Applicants	<p>Eligible Applicants are public school districts meeting specified criteria and Educational Service Units (ESUs).</p> <p>Eligible Applicants may apply individually or form a consortium including a combination of ESUs and/or districts.</p> <p>School District Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Districts with total student enrollment at or above 1,000 may: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ apply independently for an individual grant, ○ join the regional ESU consortium grant, or ○ join with other districts to apply for a consortium grant. • Districts with student enrollment below 1,000 may: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ join the regional ESU consortium grant, or ○ join with other districts to reach a total enrollment above 1,000, thereby becoming eligible for a consortium grant. <p><i>* Notice: Districts with student enrollment below 1,000 are <u>not</u> eligible for an independent grant.</i></p> <p><i>*Should an ESU elect to not apply or submit an application that does not meet approval criteria/requirements, other alternatives will be considered for districts in the affected region.</i></p> <p>Consortium Information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applications may include a combination of ESUs and/or districts, providing that one Eligible Applicant serves as “lead agency”. • Multiple ESUs may collaborate for a grant, providing one ESU serves as the “lead agency”. • No public school district or ESU may individually apply for, lead or be a member of an applicant consortium for more than one grant application.

Funding	Budgets must be based upon anticipated needs up to the specified grant allocation. The DTIPS Grant is supplemental to, and shall not supplant or duplicate, any other funding source(s). Using these funds to support compliance monitoring requirements is not allowed. These grants are funded with IDEA discretionary dollars for the specific purpose identified on page one.
Distribution of Funding	Funds will be distributed through a formula based on total district student enrollment. Consortium applications will be limited to the total of funds allocated to participating agencies. Please see "2016-17 Allocations Chart" regarding ESU and district allocations.
Selection	Incomplete and/or late proposals will not be considered. To be accepted for funding, application must meet minimum criteria/requirements based on scoring rubric.
Important Tentative Dates (Subject to change)	Application Announced: January 22, 2016 (NDE/NASES Meeting) Application Announcement Posted: February 2, 2016 Application Guidelines Posted: on or around February 8, 2016 Applications Due: March 30, 2016 Preliminary Notification: April 30, 2016 Grant Award Documents Distributed: May 15, 2016 Anticipated Project Period: August 1, 2016 to September 30, 2017* <i>*With option to renew for two additional years (2017-18 and 2018-19) via submission of an annual application that meets specified criteria/requirements.</i>
Additional Information	Grant application questions should be sent to the e-mail address identified below.
Contacts	Alice Senseney, alice.senseney@nebraska.gov , 402-471-2775 or your NDE Special Education Regional Consultant