



JANET BARRESI
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Members of the State Board of Education
FROM: Janet C. Barresi
DATE: June 26, 2014
SUBJECT: 2014 MSP Mini Grant Awardees

In January 2002, the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB)* became law. Title II, Part B of this legislation authorizes a Mathematics and Science Partnerships (MSP) competitive grant program. The intent of this program is to

1. Improve and upgrade the status and stature of mathematics and science teaching;
2. Focus on the education of mathematics and science teachers as a career-long process;
3. Bring mathematics and science teachers in elementary and secondary schools together with scientists, mathematicians, and engineers;
4. Develop more rigorous mathematics and science curricula; and
5. Improve and expand training of mathematics and science teachers, including training in effective integration of technology.

Core partners in these grants must include mathematics, science, and/or engineering departments from higher education institutions, including community colleges. Partnerships of higher education, K-12 districts, and other stakeholders will draw upon the strong disciplinary expertise of the mathematicians, scientists, and engineering faculty from higher education institutions to enact selected activities that will impact improvements in student outcomes by addressing the intent of the MSP competitive grant program.

The Oklahoma State Department of Education (OSDE) is responsible for the administration of this program. Funds available for the Oklahoma Mathematics and Science Partnerships (OMSP) competitive grant program will be awarded by the OSDE to support successful proposals



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submitted by high-need school districts in partnership with departments of mathematics, science, and/or engineering at Oklahoma institutions of higher education.

The Math and Science Partnership (MSP) Mini Grant is a unique opportunity resulting from Federal carryover funds from the 2013-2014 total MSP funding allotment. These funds, if left unused, are in jeopardy of expiring and being returned to the federal government if not encumbered by September 30, 2014 and spent by December 31, 2014. Recognizing the potential consequences for delayed action and the substantial opportunity to provide supplemental funding to achieve the intent of the MSP competitive grant, the OSDE STEM Team is excited to offer this incredible opportunity to Oklahoma schools in the form of a Mini Grant, not to exceed \$40,000 per program. Because this MSP Mini Grant occurs within the same fiscal year as the 2013 MSP Grant, awardees of the 2013 MSP Grant are not eligible to participate in this Mini Grant cycle.

The 2014 MSP Mini-Grant will be focused on meeting the 3 Goals and 8 Strategies outlined the STEM Strategic Report. In addition, the 2014 MSP Mini-Grant is targeted toward four Focus Areas: Elementary Science and Math Integration, Middle School Math Initiative, STEM Blocks, and Open Projects. Evaluations of the applications took place in May and applicants had the opportunity to pitch their idea to the MSP team in person. The following high need Local Educational Agencies (LEA's) were awarded the one time Mini Grant to conduct professional development throughout the Fall semester of 2014:

2014 MSP Mini Grant Awarded Districts

District Awarded	Amount Awarded
Bowlegs PS	\$37,156.00
Choctaw-Nicoma PS	\$37,747.00
Cordell PS	\$39,860.50
Mustang PS	\$40,000.00
Osage Hills PS	\$38,910.00
Tahlequah PS	\$37,166.00
Warner PS	\$28,457.00
Wister/Poteau PS	\$38,760.00
Total Awarded	\$298,056.50