



External Funds Coordinator State & Federal, Katie Reyes

What is External Funding?

- Weslaco ISD's External Funding department provides guidance, support, and manages funding that comes from sources outside of our organization such as federal, state, or other non-organizational sources. The department's mission is to support Weslaco ISD students with a significant opportunity to receive a fair, equitable, and high-quality education, and to close educational achievement gaps.
- Federal Program Funding sources: Title I (Part A, C, D), Title II (Part A), Title III (Part A), Title IV (Part A), Homeless, Migrant, Bilingual, Special Education, Boot Camp, ACE, & Gear up
- State Funded Programs: State Compensatory Education (SCE), State High School Allotment, State Bilingual, Early Education Allotment, State Special Education

What are Federal Programs?

- Federal Programs are supplemental funds that help improve educational programs and academic achievement.

What is State Compensatory Education?

- State Compensatory Education (SCE) is defined as programs and/or services designed to supplement the regular education program for students identified as at risk of dropping out of school. The goal of SCE is to provide funding to reduce disparity in performance on assessment instruments or disparity in the rates of high school completion between educationally disadvantaged students, at-risk students, and all other students.

What is SAM.gov?

- The System for Award Management (SAM) is a government-wide registry for vendors doing business with the Federal government, and SAM registration requires annual renewal. SAM centralizes information about grant recipients and also provides a central location for grant recipients to change organizational information.

Does the vendor need to be a part of SAM.gov?

- Federal Funds: YES, when using federal funds, our external funds department, along with the business office, requires the vendor to be registered and up to date with renewal on the SAM.gov registry.
- State Funds: NO, a SAM.gov registry is not required when using state funds when making purchases.

Do I need the SAIP?

- YES. Both Federal and State funds require SAIP that supports how the use of funds are being purchased.

Do I need a compliance form to purchase when using Federal and State monies?

- YES. Both Federal & State funds require a compliance form. The compliance form provides justification and ensures that the funding is essential to meeting the needs of our economically disadvantaged, at-risk students, and all other students.

What does "reasonable and necessary" costs mean?

- Reasonable costs" means costs that are consistent with prudent business practice and are comparable to current market value. "Necessary costs" are those costs that are essential to accomplishing the objective of the project. Project costs may be reasonable in relation to expected outcomes, i.e., the amount requested might realistically be

expected to have an impact on the stated needs, and the expected outcomes are sufficient to justify the amounts requested.

To be allowable, do costs have to meet specific criteria?

→ YES. To be allowable, costs must:

- ◆ Be reasonable for the performance and be allowable under the applicable principles.
- ◆ Conform limitation or exclusions set forth in applicable cost principles or the grant agreement as to types of amount of costs
- ◆ Be consistent with policies and procedures that apply uniformly to the federally funded activities and activities funded from other sources.
- ◆ Be accorded consistent treatment among all grant programs, regardless of funding source.
- ◆ If federal, not be included as cost or used to meet cost-sharing or matching requirements of any other federally-funded program in the current or a prior period

What are “allocable” costs?

→ A cost is allocable to a particular grant in accordance with the relative benefits received and if it is treated consistently with other costs incurred for the same purposes in like circumstances and if it:

- ◆ Is incurred specifically for the grant
- ◆ Benefits both the grant and other work and can be distributed in reasonable proportion to the benefits received
- ◆ Any cost allocable to a particular grant or other cost objective may not be shifted to other federal awards to overcome funding deficiencies, or to avoid restrictions imposed by law or by the terms of the grant award.

What is allowable to purchase under awards and incentives?

→ Minimal cost certificates, plaques, ribbons, small trophies, or instructionally-related items to be used in the classroom such as pens and pencils are acceptable incentives for participation in program activity or awards for recognition.

When can a school pay for extra duty pay costs?

- Extra duty pay is allowable for employees who attend meetings/conferences/workshops/tutoring/summer school during non-contract hours (afterschool and weekends). Extra duty pay may not be paid during regular working hours of a contract day.
- Employees must document the extra hours worked and payment must be made based on actual extra hours worked. Extra duty pay rates will be based on the WISD compensation plan.

Can refreshments for training or staff meetings be paid for from grant funds?

→ NO. Refreshments are not considered to be necessary to carry out the objective of the training or staff meetings.

Can we use State Comp funds to purchase furniture?

→ No. Furniture is not an allowable expense with state comp funding. Keep in mind, SCE funds can be used only to provide programs/projects/activities supplies and materials that enhance and improve the regular education program to increase the academic achievement of at-risk students.