

Iron Range School Collaboration: Bricks & Mortar

The Iron Range School Collaboration Grant Program supports regional multi-district collaborative initiatives that result in increased availability and access to high quality education and training for students, teachers and communities.

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Eligible Applicants: School districts within the agency's service area. Must also include a minimum of 1 additional school district from the agency's service area in addition to the applicant. Or a stable or growing school district within the agency's service area.

Eligible Projects: Building new facilities to meet the needs of new collaborative activities and improved curriculum opportunities for students, renovating existing buildings to meet the needs of new collaborative activities and improved curriculum opportunities for students and bond payments as described by legislation and demolition/infrastructure for stable or growing districts based on approval of a referendum.

Ineligible Projects: Projects that supplement existing costs and programs.

Funding: The grant program funding for Bricks & Mortar is capped at 55% from this fund and 45% from local contributions based upon approval of referendum.

Evaluation Criteria

- 1. Investing in growing businesses that create jobs across the agency's service area.**
 - Describe the job creation and retention goals for the project, including but not limited to wages and benefits, and whether the jobs created are full time, part time, temporary or permanent. (See MN Statute 298.22 subd. 13)
- 2. Preparing communities for change and growth.**
- 3. Investing in an educated workforce.**

Application Process and Review

A pre-application meeting with the grant administrator is required.

Applications are reviewed for eligibility and must provide all information as provided in the application checklist.

Applications are reviewed by the grant administrator and recommended for approval on an individual basis.

Project recommendations are presented to the Agency's Board for approval.

Project funding is subject to the Commissioner's final approval. Project must meet objectives, priorities and policies established by the Commissioner.

Application Checklist

Submittal Requirements Prior to Agency Approval and Local Referendum:

- Project Narrative**
 - Narrative must address evaluation criteria and items listed below:
 - Job creation: wages and benefits, whether the jobs created are full-time, part-time, temporary or permanent
 - Evidence that participating school districts are working toward a common calendar and bell schedule to meet the needs of new collaboration
 - Evidence of new and increased curriculum opportunities for students
 - Evidence of new and increased cost savings going back to the classrooms/students
 - Evidence of three staff meetings and three public meetings
 - Evidence of current teacher contracts
- Timeline of project including proposed date of voter referendum**
- Budget including detailed sources and uses**
- Letter of support from participating school districts and project partners**
- Any other documentation to support the application**

Submittal Requirements after Referendum is approved:

- Updated Timeline of project**
- Final Budget including detailed sources and uses**
- School board resolutions of support from participating school districts and project partners**
- Copy of approval of the project by the Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Education**
- Evidence of approval of a voter referendum**

Post Grant Award Requirements

- **The agency reserves the right to require signage/logo acknowledging financial assistance from the Department of Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation. Details will be outlined in the grant agreement.**
- **Awarded projects must meet Minnesota Prevailing Wage Statutes and Contract/Bidding Requirements as stated in the grant agreement.**
- **Project information is subject to Minnesota Data Practices Act, Minnesota Statute Chapter 13.**
- A progress report is required if the grant period exceeds 12 months.
- A site visit may be conducted by an authorized representative of the agency.
- A final report is required before final payment including job creation/retention.