

October 5, 2018

TO THE ADMINISTRATOR ADDRESSED:

SUBJECT: Request for Letters of Interest for 2019-2020 Math Innovation Zones Planning and Execution Grants

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) is actively seeking participation from school districts and open-enrollment charter schools for **Math Innovation Zones (MIZ)** established by Section 28.020 of the Texas Education Code. Through MIZ, TEA supports school districts and charter schools in the expansion of high-quality blended learning programs in math by defining, supporting, and monitoring a high-fidelity implementation of the program.

Interested school districts and open-enrollment charter schools should submit a Letter of Interest (LOI) by using the template included in **Attachment 2A, 2B, and 2C** to TEA **by Friday, October 26th, 2018 at 5pm CDT**. This request for LOIs provides information on the MIZ initiative, requirements for participation, and steps to respond.

Fidelity of implementation (FOI) of MIZ is critical to the success of the program. TEA defines a high-fidelity implementation of MIZ as a high-fidelity **planning** and a high-fidelity **execution** of the program. These components are further defined throughout this request for LOIs. Based on submissions to this request, TEA will award **up to 14 MIZ Planning Grants** to enable school districts and open enrollment charter schools to work towards fulfillment of the **MIZ Fidelity of Planning (FOP)** requirements throughout the spring of 2019. After FOP deliverables are completed, TEA will award an additional **MIZ Execution Grant** to all school districts and open-enrollment charter schools in this cohort that meet the FOP requirements as defined by the MIZ FOI Rubric. The MIZ Execution Grant will fund qualifying districts and open-enrollment charter schools as they satisfy the **MIZ Fidelity of Execution (FOE)** requirements necessary to earn status as a Designated MIZ. Further context on each grant is below:

- **MIZ Planning Grants - Up to 14** school districts and open-enrollment charter schools will be eligible for MIZ Planning Grants **between \$100,000 and \$175,000 each**. As a recipient of these funds, grantees will be expected to design and launch a math blended learning program in the 2019-2020 academic year for one or more pre-kindergarten (Pre-K) or kindergarten (K) through 8th grade feeder patterns. The school districts and open-enrollment charter schools should grow MIZ to become a Pre-K or K through 8th grade program within three years. Grantees will be expected to use part of the awarded funds to work with the MIZ Technical Assistance Network (TAN). **Personnel costs** associated with implementing MIZ will also be permitted as a use of funds from this grant as will other costs necessary to achieve the FOP requirements. Additionally, school districts and open-enrollment charter schools will be required to attend the **Math Innovation Zones Kickoff Summit from December 10-11, 2018 in Dallas, Texas**.
- **MIZ Execution Grants** – After completion of the MIZ FOP deliverables with the support of the MIZ TAN, school districts and open-enrollment charter schools receiving MIZ Planning Grants will be evaluated on the extent to which the planning deliverables fulfill the FOP requirements as communicated in the FOI Rubric. All school districts and open-enrollment charter schools that meet FOP requirements will receive a MIZ Execution Grant of up to **\$150,000** to launch MIZ in the 2019-2020 academic year. Only recipients of the MIZ Planning Grants will be eligible to receive the MIZ Execution Grant.

Next Steps:

DATE	EVENT
5PM CDT FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2018	Notice of Intent to Submit a Letter of Interest; Interested school districts and open-enrollment charter schools are requested (although not required) to submit a notice of intent to apply. Submit to MIZ@tea.texas.gov with the subject line: MIZ – LOI Intent to Submit - <DISTRICT OR CHARTER SCHOOL NAME> (ex. MIZ – LOI Intent to Submit – TEXAS ISD)
5PM CDT FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2018	Deadline to Submit Questions; Questions regarding this Request for Letters of Interest should be emailed to MIZ@tea.texas.gov with the subject line: MIZ – LOI Questions. Responses from TEA will be posted on the MIZ webpage: https://tea.texas.gov/Academics/Learning_Support_and_Programs/Math_Innovation_Zones/
10:00AM CDT FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2018	2019-2020 MIZ Planning and Execution Grants Webinar; Program overview and responses to submitted questions for MIZ Planning and Execution Grants; Webinar link can be found on the MIZ webpage or below: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7538050903105377794 A recording of this webinar will be posted to the MIZ webpage shortly after the conclusion of the webinar.
5PM CDT FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2018	Deadline to Submit LOI for 2019-2020 MIZ Planning and Execution Grants; Send the completed LOI response forms (Attachments 2A, 2B, and 2C ONLY) to MIZ@tea.texas.gov with the subject line: MIZ LOI - <DISTRICT OR CHARTER SCHOOL NAME> (example: MIZ LOI - TEXAS ISD)
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2018	Target Award Notification Date; TEA may conduct phone interviews before this date to request clarification and context on the submitted LOI.
DECEMBER 10-11, 2018	Math Innovation Zones Kickoff Summit, Dallas, TX; Attendance mandatory for all grant recipients

Thank you, and we look forward to working with you to support math achievement for students in Texas.

Andrew Hodge
Director of Math Innovation Zones
Texas Education Agency
1701 North Congress Avenue
Austin, Texas 78701

Attachments for the Request for Letters of Interest for 2019-2020 Math Innovation Zones Planning and Execution Grants:

[Attachment 1](#): Request for Letters of Interest for 2019-2020 MIZ Planning and Execution Grants

Attachment 2: Required Response Forms:

[Attachment 2A](#): Response Form: District or Charter School Network Information

Required: District Overview, Feeder Pattern 1 Form

Optional: Additional Feeder Pattern Forms

[Attachment 2B](#): Response Form: District or Charter School Network Response Form

[Attachment 2C](#): Response Form: School Specific Response Form

[Attachment 3](#): Appendix

1. Math Innovation Zones Fidelity of Implementation Overview
2. Math Innovation Zones Technical Assistance Network Support Descriptions