



ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

GIFTED AND TALENTED EDUCATION

Guidelines for Writing a Proposal for a Grant Award to Operate an AEGIS Program (Academic Enrichment for the Gifted/Talented in Summer)

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. The information contained in these guidelines reflects program priorities and needs as determined by the Department of Education. The programs may be residential or commuter (day) for one or two weeks for 7th through 12th grade students. The programs will be designated AEGIS Programs: Academic Enrichment for the Gifted/Talented in Summer.
2. These guidelines are provided to assist writers and encourage them to be innovative in their design of an in-depth program which will provide enriched educational offerings in one subject area. The curriculum should be unique by comparison with college and high school curricula. **It should be neither an acceleration nor an anticipation of coursework at either level. Most importantly, the curriculum should be predicated on the needs of the students it is designed to serve. It should also reflect challenging activities that are based on principles for a differentiated curriculum.**
3. Emphasis should be placed on acquainting students with new concepts and new ways of understanding the specific subject area. In most instances, the pursuit of this aim involves introducing new facts, works, or techniques. **The major goals, however, are developing the students' sense of how theory works in organizing a field of knowledge and allowing them to develop original products which demonstrate their understanding of such theoretical frameworks.** Though each program must be organized around, and have as its central focus, one subject area, it may deal conceptually with other areas in an interdisciplinary or issue-oriented approach.

GRADE LEVEL AND STUDENT SELECTION

AEGIS programs will be designed for no more than three contiguous grade levels (rising seventh through rising twelfth).

They should be developed for a minimum of 15 to a maximum of 80 students.

Student selection procedures are to be determined by the applicant, provided that criteria and procedures are in compliance with Gifted and Talented Program Approval Standards. A copy of this document is available for review at local school districts, education service cooperatives, the Office of Gifted and Talented, and on Arkansas Department of Education website at the following link:

<http://www.arkansased.gov/divisions/learning-services/gifted-and-talented-and-advanced-placement>.

Students and faculty may participate in only one summer program per year, including Governor's School. Students may not reapply to any AEGIS program they have previously attended.

DESIGNATED SUBJECT AREAS

For the summer of 2016, the Department of Education has designated the following subject areas to be eligible for program development: science, mathematics, literature and communications, social studies, computer science, arts and music, and foreign languages.

FUNDING

Previously funded programs should be advised that priority will be given to those programs who met 100% of their student capacity.

The enclosed guidelines will be used to review and award all grants through the Arkansas Department of Education. Proposals for summer programs in Gifted and Talented Education submitted by a public or private agency must meet the guideline requirements in order to be considered eligible for funding. These guidelines have been designed to assist the applicant in the writing of a document, which will provide appropriate opportunities for gifted and talented students.

Proposals selected for funding will be for programs that operate during the period of June 6, 2016 to August 5, 2016. Proposals and budgets must be completed and submitted online at the following link by Friday, November 6, 2015.

Proposal:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/18P56nn3ThTBpxbKXAq762eQPfhfAqpfAGllvbsPQLRw/viewform>

Budget:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/19y863WUxBtZqd_SZ3II8g6VIsBQmUO04P2eVsH0mKuU/edit?usp=sharing

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

A Zoom meeting to assist program directors in preparing proposals will be held on August 21 from 3-4 P.M. Join from PC, Mac, iOS or Android: <https://zoom.us/j/790161995>

The meeting will be repeated on September 1st from 3-4 P.M. Join from PC, Mac, iOS or Android: <https://zoom.us/j/846150562>

Topics to be addressed will be: 1) recruitment of students, 2) appropriate program activities, 3) techniques and practices which have proved successful in the past, 4) budgetary procedures, and 5) safety and security.

Directors of all funded programs will be required to attend an online meeting, which will be scheduled during January 2016.

A review panel, including qualified professionals in Gifted and Talented Education, will review the proposals and make recommendations to the Director of the Office of Gifted and Talented, Arkansas Department of Education.

CRITERIA FOR PROGRAM SELECTION

1. Staff expertise and staff development activities
2. The feasibility and degree of innovation of the proposed project
3. Comprehensiveness of the program
4. Feasible objectives and promise of achieving them
5. Clear evidence of academic rigor
6. Ratio of program costs to anticipated student benefits

ONLY PROGRAMS WITH EVIDENCE OF A STRONG ACADEMIC EMPHASIS WILL BE CONSIDERED.

Prior to final approval, a site visit may be conducted by persons designated by the Arkansas Department of Education. The purpose of the visit will be to assess the appropriateness of the site, its resources, staff and facilities.

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