

Star Schools Program General Information

Star Schools Grant Type: Star Schools is a discretionary/competitive grant, which are different from formula grants. A discretionary grant awards funds on the basis of a competitive process. The U.S. Department of Education reviews applications during a formal review process, considering the legislative and regulatory requirements and published criteria for the program. The U.S. Department of Education then determines which applications best meet the requirements and are, therefore, most worthy of funds. **NOTE:** No new funds are available for FY 2007-2008; the only available funds are for continuation awards.

Additional information about the specific way in which the grants are reviewed can be found in the Star Schools Evaluation FAQ section of the U.S. Department of Education website at:

<http://www.ed.gov/programs/starschools/faqevaluation.html>

Star Schools Eligibility: Eligible applicants for the Star Schools program include any public agencies or corporations whose purpose is to develop and operate telecommunications networks to enhance education opportunities. However, these eligible entities must represent the interests of elementary and secondary schools that are included under Part A of Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

Also eligible are partnerships that will provide telecommunications services, and include three or more of the following entities (at least one of which must be a local educational agency):

1. A local educational agency serving a significant number of elementary and secondary schools eligible under Part A of Title I, or elementary and secondary schools operated/funded for Indian children by the Department of the Interior.
2. A state educational agency.
3. Adult/family education program.
4. An institution of higher education, or state higher education agency.
5. A teacher-training center that received federal assistance or has been

- approved by the state.
6. A public or private entity with experience or expertise in planning/operating a telecommunications network.
 7. A public or private elementary or secondary school.

Star Schools Use of Funds: Star Schools Program grants must be used to obtain telecommunications facilities and equipment, develop and acquire instructional programming for students, provide pre-service and in-service staff development for teachers and administrators, provide educational programming for parents and community members and/or obtain technical assistance for teachers and school personnel in the use of facilities and programming.

Star Schools Application Process: The Star Schools application itself must be submitted online at the Grants Apply Site at www.grants.gov. However, if you need special consideration, you must receive a waiver of the electronic submission requirement.

For printed applications, contact Education Publications Center (ED Pubs), PO Box 1398, Jessup, MD 20794-1398, Tel: 877-433-7827, TDD: 877-576-7734, <http://www.edpubs.org/webstore/Content/search.asp>, E-mail: edpubs@inet.ed.gov.

Along with the application, you must also submit the following forms:

- ED Form 424
- ED Form 524
- Standard Form 424B
- ED80-0013
- ED80-0014
- Standard Form LLL
- Survey on Ensuring Equal Opportunity for Applicants

At a Glance: **Star Schools Program**

School Year 2007-2008:

Funding for School Year 2007-2008: \$11,513,000 (Approximate)

Number of Awards (Approximate): 6 (Continuation Awards)

Program Type: Discretionary/Competitive Grants

Additional Information: Contact information for Star Schools Program: <http://www.ed.gov/programs/starschools/contacts.html>

Helpful Links: Star Schools Program Description: <http://www.learningpt.org/gateway/>

School Year 2008-2009:

Funding for School Year 2008-2009: \$0 (Anticipated)

Program Type: Discretionary/Competitive Grants

Eligible Applicants:

1. A public agency or corporation that develops and operates telecommunications networks to enhance educational opportunities.
2. A partnership that will provide telecommunications services and that includes three or more of the following entities (at least one of which must be a LEA).
 - a. A Local educational agency.
 - b. A State educational agency.
 - c. An adult and family education program.
 - d. An institution of higher education or a State higher education agency.
 - e. A teacher-training center or academy that receives Federal financial assistance or has been approved by a State agency.
 - f. A public or private entity with experience and expertise in the planning and operation of a telecommunications network.
 - g. A public or private elementary or secondary school.

Application Availability and Deadline: Application information will be announced on the Department of Education's Star School website, if this grant program is funded for school year 2008-2009.

Additional Information: The Department of Education's Star School website: <http://www.ed.gov/programs/starschools/index.html>

Helpful Links: Star Schools Program Frequently Asked Questions: <http://www.ed.gov/programs/starschools/faq.html>

Information Current To: 02/10/08

Star Schools Additional Help and Contact Information: You can contact Brian Lekander (brian.lekander@ed.gov or 202-205-5633) at the U.S. Department of Education, OII Technology in Education Programs 400 Maryland Ave. S.W., Rm. 4W226, FB-6 Washington, DC 20202 with any questions you may have.