

**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS
TEACHER RESIDENCY WEBINAR
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18, 2019**

QUESTIONS	RESPONSES
Will the candidates take the Special Education content area test or just the elementary education & reading foundations?	We recommend that candidates are prepared to teach both Special Education and Elementary Education.
Will universities be able to select the mentor teachers?	During the first year of the program, universities will not be able to select mentor teachers. However, this is being researched to include in the second year of the program as a partnership with school districts.
Just to clarify, if a school offers a hybrid program that does not require the student to drive to campus, they can still be considered even if they are not the closest university?	Yes. All universities in Mississippi with an educator preparation program who apply to the RFP will be considered.
Are students expected to be in coursework for the 2 years	Students are provided a two-year time frame to complete coursework and the program.
Can a candidate request an MAT if they have a degree?	Each awarded institution will need to assess each candidate's academic background separately. Some of the current residents may need to consider an MAT route, based on the institution's program of study.
Will the placements in elementary classrooms be inclusion classrooms?	Yes. Inclusion classrooms may be considered as a placement for the candidates, as well as elementary classrooms.
Just to clarify, tuition costs come out of the university's \$200,000 budget.	Yes. The \$200,000 per year includes tuition costs for each candidate entering the institution's program.
To be clear, residents accepted for this program are expecting their full tuition to be covered by the program...correct?	Yes. Exclusive of housing expenses, each residents' full tuition will be covered using the \$200,000 awarded.
Can you clarify more the institutions' expectations for adjusting coursework to meet the residency model?	The expectations for all stakeholders involved in the program may be found by clicking HERE .
Will a new cohort be added each year?	Yes. A new cohort of 35 residents will be added each year of the program.
What qualifications do the mentor teachers have?	For more information about mentor teachers in Mississippi, click HERE .
How do we create a budget when we don't know how many students will qualify for financial aid?	Budget allocations are based on your program's design and with the assumption that none of the candidates will apply for financial aid.
Is student teaching expected for 1 year or two?	Student teaching assignments are based on the program design of the awarded institution(s).
Are mentor teachers for most districts located in the same schools?	For more information regarding the Mississippi Statute (§37-9-209 - §37-9-211) concerning teacher mentors in Mississippi, click HERE .
How does the addition of a new cohort impact the funding?	Awarded institutions may receive up to \$200,000 per year for the additions of new candidates.

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Do the candidates have two years to complete the coursework?	Because of the structure of the Teacher Residency Program, candidates have two years to complete coursework.
Do the mentor teachers have certification in elementary and special education? And they should have special ed coursework?	It would be preferred that the mentor teachers have both; however, we will need to work within the confines of the state statute regarding mentor teachers found HERE .
Can the candidates start coursework this summer?	If institutions are able to effectively prepare candidates to begin coursework this summer (2019), it is permitted.
What are the expectations for providing professional development to mentor teachers?	For more information regarding the Mississippi Statute (§37-9-209) regarding professional development for mentor teachers, click HERE .
Are they in schools all day everyday like a teacher's assistant?	There are some candidates who are currently working in schools all day. It is imperative for staff from the awarded institution to discuss their program plans with each candidate.
What expectations are there for the candidates to have experience in special education (with special educators)?	While not required, it is recommended that candidates have some preparatory experiences with special education and/or special educators.
How long do the candidates have to complete coursework?	Even though each candidate is different and life happens, we recommend that the candidate completes the coursework within a 2-year time frame.
So, is this primarily an elementary education preparation program?	Yes. This is primarily an elementary education preparation program.
Are professors training mentor teachers as well?	For the first year of the residency program, mentor teachers will be trained by the Mississippi Department of Education staff and external national partners (i.e. Center on Great Teachers and Leaders, Southeast Comp Center, etc.)
If we receive the grant, will we have to reapply each year?	Institutions who receive the grant this year automatically receives it for the duration of the grant cycle. No reapplication is needed.
Even though you say certification in special education, they do not need specific experiences in their residency in special education?	While not required, it is recommended that candidates have some preparatory experiences with special education and/or special educators.
Will we have access to the information gathered about mentor teachers and students during the MDE/district application process?	Institutions will not receive information about the mentor teachers and students during the application process.

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Will the list of universities that submitted a letter of intent to apply be provided?	The list of universities that submitted a letter of intent to apply will not be provided.
Coursework can extend outside parameters of normal semesters?	In some instances, coursework can extend outside the parameter of normal semesters. It is recommended that each awarded institution provide staff to assist the candidates based on their individual needs.
Is funding for four years (\$800,000) or for three years (\$600,000)? National board certified in Elementary Education or Special Education? Or both?	Funding is for three years totaling \$600,000. We have a separate program in which we are partnering with stakeholders to increase National Board Certification among educators across the state.
Will there be common assessments of graduate effectiveness across programs?	Yes. There will be common assessments of graduate effectiveness across programs.
Have all of the selected candidates completed FASFAs for this coming academic year?	It is recommended that each awarded institution assume that the selected candidates will not complete a FAFSA application.

QUESTIONS SUBMIT PRIOR TO THE WEBINAR

1. Please clarify whether there will be 35 residents total per year for the entire state or 35 residents per region.

ANSWER: Yes. There will be 35 residents per year for each year of the program.

2. Have the 35 residents already been selected by MDE?

ANSWER: Yes. The residents have been selected by the four school districts in partnership with the MDE.

3. If the residents have already selected, can they choose which school district for their residency or have the residents already been placed in one of the four school districts?

ANSWER: The school districts have chosen their preferred candidates for this program. They have not yet been placed, but rather selected.

4. If the residents have already been selected, what expectations do they have regarding tuition? In other words, are the residents expecting their full tuition to be covered by the program?

ANSWER: The full tuition for each resident is covered with the \$200,000 awarded to the institution. Housing expenses are not included, but will be provided by MDE.

5. What type of delivery format are the residents expecting? Online? Face-to-face? Hybrid?

ANSWER: It is the discretion of the awarded institution regarding the delivery platform. It is recommended that each awarded institution provide staff to assist candidates based on their individual needs.

6. Is the \$200K intended to cover all costs? Is there an expectation of cost sharing/in-kind expenses for the IHE and/or school district?

ANSWER: The \$200,000 is intended to cover all costs.

7. When writing the RFP, did MDE consider IHL policies and processes?

- a. Creating new curricula, modifying existing curricula, and/or changing delivery format require IHL approval. There doesn't seem to be time built into the deliverables timeline to seek out the necessary approvals.
- b. If residents are expecting their entire tuition to be covered, most of the \$200K will be tied up in that direct cost when stacking two years of residents. IHL institutions will not be able to discount tuition without approval.
- c. For example, how could an IHL apply for region two without getting approval from IHL to go into JSU's backyard? Doesn't this kind of lock up region two?

ANSWER: As with any educational program, IHL, MDE, and/or other policies should be followed. We recommend that the institutions include innovative program design models that will benefit each candidate in the teacher residency program. The awarded institutions will receive \$200,000 per year for the program.

8. Will MDE grant F&A cost (even if reduced from their institution negotiated full amount)? If so, the F&A should be granted on top of the \$200K direct costs.

ANSWER: Facilities and Administrative costs indicated as direct costs should be clarified in the budget summary section of the grant proposal. These will be reviewed and a decision will be made on a case by case basis.

9. Please help me with the math on page 3. MTRP will support up to 35 residents per year for three years. Doesn't this add up to 105 new educators?

ANSWER: The MDE has provided the funder with a Year 4 program plan that is inclusive of the remaining candidates.

10. Are tuition costs for residents intended to be covered by the \$200K award?

ANSWER: Yes. Exclusive of housing expenses, tuition costs (tuition, courses, books, etc.) for residents are intended to be covered by the \$200,00 award.

11. Are the \$5000 stipends to mentor teachers intended to be covered by the award? If not, who is covering those expenses?

ANSWER: The stipends will not be covered by the award. This will be covered by external stakeholders, school districts, and MDE.

12. Are residents able to chose which academic program they want to affiliate with? Or are they expected to affiliate with the Vendor/Offeror that received the award in that region?

ANSWER: Residents are selected based on a cohort model. For example, the 12 residents selected for Gulfport and Ocean Springs School Districts will enroll in the awarded institution in the Southern Region of the state. The 12 candidates selected for Jackson Public Schools will enroll in the awarded institution in the Central Region and the 12 candidates selected for Sunflower County will enroll in the awarded institution in the Northern Region of the state.

13. On page 12, please identify a required date for resident cohort 1 admittance.

ANSWER: We recommend that all candidates at least begin coursework by fall 2019.

14. Is the induction program designed solely by the EPP? Mutually co-constructed with the school district? Supported totally by the award? Shared cost with the school district?

ANSWER: As outlined in Mississippi Statute §37-9-209 through §37-9-201, school districts may partner with EPPs if they so choose to assist with their mentoring and induction program. It is to the discretion of the EPP if they would like to include funding allocated to induction activities.

15. Is there a page limit for the following required elements?
a. Program plan
b. Management/Staffing

ANSWER: There are no requirements for the number of pages for this RFP.

16. What are the parameters of the residency financial model?

ANSWER: The parameters set for the residency financial model are to the discretion of the institution.

17. Please clarify the expectations of the mentor professional development for cohort 1 since the mentor professional development plan is not due until May 2020 (page 12 of RFP).

ANSWER: As outlined in Mississippi Statute §37-9-201 through §37-9-201, each school district in the state should have a plan for mentors which includes professional development.

18. Are the training sites for each cohort different each year of the grant?

ANSWER: Training sites are variable for the participants in the program. For more information on the MTR model, please click [HERE](#) to review the fact sheet.