

### System of Professional Learning (SPL) Grant Customer Service Session FAQ

Question	MSDE Response
Can grant funds be used to purchase food?	Yes, food can be purchased with these grant funds, but the food purchase must be tied to a deliverable (i.e. working lunch).
<b>Can SPL grant funds be braided with other grant funds (federal and/or state)?</b>	<b>Federal funds cannot be used for any service that is used to satisfy the requirements of the system of professional learning established in Md. Code Education, § 6-1011. The MSDE is exploring the permissibility of using other state funds, in addition to those awarded through the System of Professional Learning Grant, to provide the system.</b>
Do invoices have to be provided to MSDE from the LEA?	LEAs will be reimbursed by the MSDE following Type 1 payment processing of expenditures reported through the Financial Status Reporting (FSR) system.
Will the differentiation guide be shared prior to the grant application deadline?	<p>While a differentiation guide is being created, it will not be finalized prior to the grant application deadline of April 10, 2025.</p> <p>Learning Forward is developing the guide through close collaboration with the MSDE, collective bargaining units, and LEA representatives. The stakeholder advisory committee will meet four times between March and June to finalize the guide.</p>

Question	MSDE Response
<p>Can the LEAs have an opportunity to collaborate and share ideas with each other prior to the grant application submission deadline?</p>	<p>Yes, the MSDE thinks this is a wonderful idea. The March 11<sup>th</sup> office hour has been repurposed and will now be an opportunity for LEAs to collaborate with each other. The time has also been extended (3/11 from 1-3 pm) to accommodate this collaboration opportunity.</p> <p>A “working lunch” opportunity at the March 13<sup>th</sup> SPL training session, will also be provided.</p>
<p>What are the implementation requirements?</p>	<p>As defined in MD Code, Education, <a href="#">§ 6-1011</a>, and the Accountability and Implementation Board’s Comprehensive Implementation Plan dated August 2023, the proposal for the System of Professional Learning must provide state-of-the-art training using a train-the-trainer model on how to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Lead and mentor teams of professionals to promote professional learning among colleagues;</li> <li>2. Collaborate with colleagues to improve student performance;</li> <li>3. Design and support collaborative professional learning for teachers pursuing National Board Certification;</li> <li>4. Provide advanced training on the science of learning specific to individual disciplines;</li> <li>5. Provide instruction and school-based services utilizing racial equity and cultural competency principles and best-practices;</li> <li>6. Select and implement evidence-based instructional practices for students with disabilities and multilingual learners;</li> <li>7. Implement restorative practices and</li> </ol>

Question	MSDE Response
	<p>trauma-informed responses; and</p> <p>8. Implementation of high-quality instructional materials (HQIM) at the classroom level.</p> <p><b>All other implementation requirements and guidelines are at the discretion of each individual LEA. This includes but is not limited to the sequence of sessions/topics, number of sessions, length of sessions, and session format (virtual, in-person, hybrid).</b></p>
When must all teachers be trained?	<p>On or before June 30, 2026, each LEA shall provide the system of professional learning to each teacher who teaches in the district.</p> <p>Beginning on July 1, 2026, each LEA shall provide the system of professional learning to each teacher teaching in the LEA no later than 1 year after the teacher begins teaching in the State.</p>
How is the MSDE defining "teacher?"	<p>"Teacher" is defined as a person that provides instruction to prekindergarten, kindergarten, grades 1 through 12, or ungraded classes; or who teaches in an environment other than a classroom setting and who maintains daily student attendance records. This definition comes directly from the Staff Manual.</p>
Can we have copies of the presentation and the other referenced documents?	<p>A copy of the presentation and all related resources will be shared in a follow-up email with all LEA Professional Learning points of contact.</p>
Do indirect costs have to be included in the total allocated amount?	<p>Yes, indirect costs, if needed, should be included in the total allocation amount. Indirect cost amounts vary by LEA.</p>

Question	MSDE Response
If we have some of the session topics already designed, do we still need to share that information in the application (so the funds will only be utilized for certain sessions/topics)?	The grant application only needs to discuss the sessions/topics you plan to utilize the grant funds to support.
Will late applications be accepted?	Due to the very tight grant application timeline, late applications will not be accepted. Please ensure all applications are submitted by April 10, 2025, no later than 5:00 p.m. EDT.
Will this grant opportunity be available annually or is this a one-time opportunity?	We strongly encourage LEAs to design a sustainability plan that does not require annual funds from this grant opportunity. If funds are provided in future years, the MSDE will be sure to let LEAs know as soon as possible.
Will no-cost extensions be available, if needed?	No-cost extension requests will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. We encourage LEAs to plan to spend all funds during the grant period.
Is there a specific naming convention for the application submission?	Yes, please name the application file "LEA Name_SPL Grant Application Submission."  The submission email subject header should be titled, "SPL Grant Application Submission."
Do all teachers need the same amount of training on the various SPL topics?	MSDE encourages LEAs to differentiate the various topics to meet the needs of the teachers on various levels of the career ladder and years of teaching experience.
How will MSDE and AIB ensure districts comply with the requirement to train all teachers in all eight topics by June 30, 2026?	The annual staff data collection will have a flag to indicate that the teacher has been provided with the eight system of professional learning topics.

<b>Question</b>	<b>MSDE Response</b>
Three of the topics will not be covered by Learning Forward prior to the application submission date. How do we know what the topics include in order to add them to our grant application?	Please see the <a href="#">SPL FAQ</a> for summary information on each session.
Once the LEAs receive the grant award letter, what is the timeframe for having access to the funds?	A Notice of Grant Award (NOGA) will be disseminated after the grant award letter is received. You may begin implementing its approved program as of the date of the letter.