# **FY2025: FC 0128 Promoting Safe and Healthy Learning Environments: Elevating Student Voice and Well-Being**

**Questions and Answers (as of 1/22/2024)**

Please email questions to [achievement@mass.gov](mailto:achievement@mass.gov) with the

Subject Line: FY2025 FC 0128 Question

1. **What does it mean for applicants regarding the Private School Consultation requirement and if a private school wants to do a different option than the district?**

**Answer:** An eligible LEA applying for Fund Code (FC) 0128 – Promoting Safe and Healthy Learning Environments – Elevating Student Voice and Well-Being must consult with appropriate private school officials before the entity makes any decision that affects the opportunities of eligible private school children and educators to participate (ESEA section 8501(c)(3)). Such consultation might include a brief survey of non-public schools or other information gathering to indicate the schools’ interest in participating and the population to be served. Such consultation will allow the LEA to consider the needs of all students and educators—both public and private—in developing its application, and to include the projected costs for equitable services in the application. It is noted that grant funds cannot go directly to the private school but instead the district would manage the use of the funds such that the private school could engage in the selected initiative(s). Purchases made by the district are owned by the district.

If there are different interests in terms of the Options, try to resolve the differences through a timely and meaningful consultation process. If after consultation, the private school still wants to participate in a different initiative, you should note it in the grant application for DESE's reference as part of the application review process. DESE will contact the private school to support their involvement.

Additional details about consultation and implementation of equitable service can be found in DESE’s [ESSA Equitable Services for Private Schools Resource Guide](https://www.doe.mass.edu/federalgrants/resources/equitableservices-essa/rg-eqserv.docx).

1. **If an LEA has decided not to apply for any part of the fund code but a private school program is interested in participating, do we still need to apply on their behalf?**

**Answer:** No, an LEA is not required to provide equitable services if it does not receive funds under a covered ESEA program (e.g., if it chooses not to participate in such program). (ESEA section 8501(a)(1))

1. **On the assurances, can you confirm if the district is agreeing to all of the events listed even if they are not applying for that Option?**

**Answer:** Yes, applicants are providing assurance to participate in the events listed.

**PLEASE NOTE:** In response **TO ALL QUESTIONS SUBMITTED** regarding **ELIGIBILITY** for **FC 0127** and **FC 0128:** FY2025 FC 0127 Student Voices & Well-Being grantees may apply for FC 0128 Options that they are not administering in FY25 (2024-2025.) Continuation funds for FC 0127 Options that grantees are administering will be available for FY26 (2025-2026).

1. **We are a current 127 grantee and are not eligible to apply for the same Option again. Will there be a continuation grant for FY26?**

**Answer:** Yes, there will be a FC0127 continuation grant available this spring for FY26.

1. **Can we apply for FC 0211 funds available (in association with Option B CHPE) even if we are not eligible to apply for FC 0128 because we are a FC 0127 grantee?**

**Answer:** No. Current FC 0127 Option 2B grantees will have the option of applying to Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP) as part of their continuation grant for FY26.

1. **We are a current SEL-SL grantee in FC 0127 but are not doing SELIS. Can we apply for the $10,000 available for SELIS only in FC 0128 - Option D?**

**Answer:** No**.** The SELIS option will be provided to current FC 0127 grantees as part of the continuation grant.

1. **What is the grant cycle?**

**Answer:** The grant cycle will be upon approval (anticipated late Winter/early Spring) through June 30, 2026, with the exception of the PREP component of Option 2B. PREP funding, through FC 0211, will run from upon approval through June 30, 2025 with an anticipated continuation grant available for FY 2026.

1. **For the FC0128 grant, round 2, due later this month, we are interested in Option F, but we are only interested in 2025-2026 implementation as we do not have the capacity between now and June to implement. How will the budget be handled for the grants under this FC umbrella if we are intending to use the funds for FY26 implementation (as the GEM$ application is listed as FY25 only)?**

**Answer:** Applicants submit one budget that covers the full grant project duration (upon approval – June 30, 2026.) This grant is set up as a “multi-year” grant where unspent funds at the end of this fiscal year (June 30, 2025) will automatically roll into fiscal year 2026.

1. **How is the LEA needs index calculated?**

**Answer:** For the purposes of this grant program, a district's LEA Need Index equals the sum of the district's 2024 percent of high needs students, out-of-school suspension rate, and chronic absenteeism rate [missing 20 percent of days] for 2024.

1. **For large districts like Boston, can individual schools apply that meet criteria or does the district need to apply comprehensively?**

**For the Grant opportunity Elevating Student Voice and Well Being, I cannot tell if a school can apply of if it needs to be the district leading the way. Can you please clarify?**

**Answer:** The Department will accept one application from an eligible school district (LEA). A district can apply for up to the eligibility amount listed for each Option for which it is applying and can determine how many schools to engage.

1. **Can we only apply if we are on the eligibility list that is linked under "eligibility"?**

**Could you please clarify - the name of our district/school is not on the eligibility list. Does that mean that the district/school is not eligible to apply for the grant?**

**Answer:** Yes, districts can only apply if they are listed on the eligibility list. If your October 2024 SIMS data reflect a shift in your Newcomer student population from 2023 and you believe your district to be eligible, please email [achievement@mass.gov](mailto:achievement@mass.gov).

1. **Can districts with student living in shelters apply for any of the options or just Option C?**

**Answer:** Yes, districts who have an emergency shelter in their community are on the eligibility list for any of the options in this grant opportunity.

1. **Can applicants use or reference the Safe and Supportive Schools self-assessment tool in their application?**

**Answer:** Completing the Safe & Supportive Schools Self Assessment Tool is aprocess that schools/districts are invited to do at any time but it is not necessary for the purposes of this grant. Applicants, who have evidence of student/family/staff/school needs that were identified through the Safe & Supportive self-assessment (or other self-assessment tools), can include self-assessment information in the proposal as appropriate.

1. **Can LEAs only apply to one of the options (or can districts apply to multiple)?**

**Answer:** Applicants can apply for multiple options in FC 0128.

1. **Is there any way to access the presentation and its slides from the Bidders Sessions?**

**Answer:** Yes, the slides are posted in the DESE Resources section in [GEM$](https://mass.egrantsmanagement.com/default.aspx?ccipSessionKey=638719611616498050).

1. **Can you provide information about why approved special education schools are ineligible for this funding stream FY25 FC 0128? Our students who present with limited language and those who are nonspeaking are in high need for opportunities for student-directed learning/research.**

**Answer:** Approved special education schoolsare not eligible as they are not local education agencies (LEAs). LEAs are the eligible entities for the funds per the funding source.

1. **As a Charter Public School that is planning to apply for a number of options under the grant fund code FC0128, we could not find any guidance on how to determine the funding amount that we can request (i.e. the range of funding.) We understand that this is a competitive grant process, but any help and guidance for eligibility and funding amount would be greatly appreciated.**

**Answer:** The maximum amounts for which eligible applicants may apply for each grant option are outlined in the option-specific **“Key Requirements” documents** found in the Additional Information section of the posted [RFP](https://www.doe.mass.edu/grants/2025/0128/). Each document has a “funding” section that details the maximum amount for that option.

1. **We are interested in applying for FC 0128 Option F but we are only interested in 2025-2026 implementation as we do not have the capacity between now and June to implement. How will the budget be handled for the grants under this FC umbrella if we are intending to use the funds for FY26 implementation (as the GEM$ application is listed as FY25 only)?**

**Answer:** The project duration and grant cycle for this grant is upon approval through 6/30/2026 and includes FY25 and FY26. In FY25, grantees awarded Option F will be asked to attend the Youth Participatory Action Research (YPAR) experience in Spring 2025 and select a DESE approved consultant to work with to implement a model of YPAR. Grantees will be able to develop an implementation timeline with the approved consultant.

1. **The RFP indicates that this is specifically for "students who are placed in eligible new emergency assistance family shelter (or hotel or other facility used as a shelter) that was opened by the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (HLC), formerly DHCD, during the 2023-2024 or 2022-2023 school year. " Do families living at ReNu under the United-Way funded New Healthy Mass program qualify? Is this money exclusively to support those students or is it any newcomer-homeless students? If the latter - is it newcomer *and/or* homeless students, or only those that are both homeless and newly arrived?**

**Answer:** No, the funds are not exclusive to students or families in emergency shelters or facilities. Any newcomer-homeless student can be supported, including students who reside in a United Way funded New Healthy Mass program. This program serves newcomer homeless immigrants just like any emergency family shelter who supports newcomer homeless families.

1. **I was working on the budget for Option C and noticed that under Contracted Service (major) my only option is for contractual services for PD. Our team is looking to hire an organization to deliver counseling services to our McKinney Vento students, so I wasn’t sure how to go about entering that on the budget.**

**Answer:** The budget template in GEM$ has been updated to resolve this problem. Additional Function Codes should now be visible for budgeting.

1. **We are looking for clarification for Option B: Comprehensive Health & Physical Education. We are looking to make changes to our PE curriculum. Fund use include: *"Materials and supplies, to support implementation of district-selected curricula. (Maximum 15% of total grant request)"* Would items such as soccer balls and nets be considered materials/supplies?**

**Answer:** Funds can be used for materials and supplies related to the district-selected physical education and health curricula, but the maximum amount cannot exceed 15% of the total grant request for Option B.

1. **I’m currently working as the Grant Writer for our district and noticed that Part B of the FC0128 grant is grayed out and not editable on my end. Our LEA has already initiated the process, to start the application but I’m unable to input information. Could you please assist in adding me to the system so I can begin entering the details?**

**Answer:** In order to complete the application, users must be assigned to the role of LEA Grant Writer for each specific fund code. Roles are assigned by your school/district/collaborative’s **LEA User Access Administrator** (UAA). Please reference the **GEM$ LEA User Roles - Guidance and Forms** under DESE Resources on the [GEM$](https://mass.egrantsmanagement.com/Default.aspx?ccipSessionKey=638727419277612762) main page.

1. **For districts who are ineligible to apply for the FC 0128 grant but are interested in the FC0211 PREP option, do we need to fill out Required Program Questions? If yes, do we do that under the FC0128 grant and just note that the responses are for the PREP option only?**

**Answer**: Only districts listed on the eligibility list in the [RFP](https://www.doe.mass.edu/grants/2025/0128/) for FC 0128, including PREP, may apply. There may be other grant opportunities for PREP in the future but not at this time. For FC0127 grantees of Option 2B, please reference Question 5.

1. **As our collaborative considers an application on behalf of this grant's eligible member districts and their students we serve, is there a particular place, other than the narrative, that we need to indicate the names of the eligible districts in our collaborative? And, if possible, in general, how does this grant proposal envision the role of educational collaboratives beyond the statement "on behalf of one or more eligible districts?" Are students attending a collaborative, from eligible districts, able to participate in this grant’s activities at their collaborative classroom and program/school?**

**Answer:** Education Collaboratives are eligible to apply on behalf of eligible school districts with which they partner. If partner school districts are interested in one or more of the options, the Collaborative could apply on their behalf. Collaborative staff can participate in the initiatives alongside staff and students from the participating districts to ensure alignment and coordination of efforts. Please indicate the partnering eligible districts as part of the response to the District-Level Required Program Information questions.

1. **How do we know if the one private school within our community, who has grades 10th to 12th, is even eligible for this grant?**

**Answer:** Eligibility for this grant opportunity is based on the LEA status. LEAs are eligible entities for the funds per the funding source. The consultation with private schools is required to provide equitable service for all students in the district’s community and to consider the needs of all students and educators—both public and private.