

Questions from 6/17/2025 Bidders' Conference:

RFP 835 6/17/2025 Bidders' Conference - YouTube

Q: In the past a Summer Bridge program would have been allowed, but going forward, you're saying it will not be because you would expect that to come from a different funding source (the Summer Enrichment funding source)?

A: As we have now added in the Sheff Interdistrict Magnet Schools Summer Enrichment Grant, that would be something that would be continued for Summer 2026. So June 2026 Summer Bridge programming would be eligible to be applied for through that grant opportunity. In prior years we didn't necessarily have this Summer Enrichment opportunity through our grant funding, through our office, so now that we have that, we are thinking that would be best served or underneath the purpose of Summer Programming.

Q: I just want to clarify that I understand we don't have to apply for the full amount allocated to a school, but let's say a school says "you know what, I really can only use about 50% of what's been allocated". So I'm hearing you say there won't be any push back from the SDE reviewers about that?

A: For the reviewer, it would be looking to see what they wrote for and if it's justified by the cost, that's what we're looking for in the budget. So there would probably be more pushback by a review team if there was a request for 100% and really only seems like there's plans for 50% of what was allocated. So if they have \$100,000 they could write for, but they only request \$50,000, as long as it's justified and it makes sense in regards to the context of the proposal, that is what they'll be looking at. It's not necessarily looking to say did you request the full amount, it would be writing to what you think you could actually justify with your programming and/or equipment purchases.

Q: I only ask because of the context of the *Sheff* settlement and the intent of the grant. In years past, there's been a certain perception that if we're not using all the money, that we're not, us and in partnership with RSCO, are upholding our responsibility. So I'm hearing you say that's not factoring in this time.

A: Yeah, so that would be part of why we are shifting into the competitive grant application. The purpose behind it is to allow schools to write for what they can and will use, versus providing a formula to fund a certain amount that the school would not necessarily be able to spend. So this would be something that as you go through, there would be questions if you requested a certain amount through the competitive grant application, there would be funding history impacts for future applications if you did not spend what you requested or what was awarded, but you're definitely not required to write for the maximum request amount.