



2016-17

## ND Teacher Support System Beginning Teacher Networks

The Teacher Support System will make funding available for REAs and districts associated with our Program to develop Networks for your first-year teachers for the 2016-17 school year. This is an opportunity for your district or REA to provide a more complete Induction Program for your new teachers.

**A network with other first-year teachers is meant to supplement and not replace the more important support of a trained mentor for your new teachers, as already provided through the TSS Mentoring Program.** (Please contact me at [lstenehj@nd.gov](mailto:lstenehj@nd.gov) or 701.328.9644 for more information on participating in our Mentoring Program.)

*Application deadline:*

4:00 PM Wednesday, September 7, 2016

**Grants can be submitted any time before this date. Approval will be finalized within two weeks of receipt of application and checks for half of the grant will be sent out after approval.**

*Purpose of Grant:*

This grant is to allow you to provide support meetings for first-year teachers in your district/REA.

*Network Name:*

Each participating district or REA may submit a proposal for a program to be titled, Teacher Support System (REA or district name) Beginning Teacher Network (ex. Teacher Support System MDEC Beginning Teacher Network or Teacher Support System West Fargo Beginning Teacher Network).

*Requirements:*

- A minimum of 5 first-year teachers must be served by your grant.
- A minimum of 8 hours of meeting time must be provided.
- Meetings may be face-to-face or online synchronous meetings.
- If you have a worthy plan that falls outside of these parameters, please call me to discuss.

*Eligibility:*

Individual districts or REAs may apply. **Each project must be able to serve a minimum of five (5) first-year teachers.**

*Funding:*

**Districts** can request \$2000.00 plus \$125.00 for each first-year teacher over five.

**REAs** may request \$3000.00 plus \$125.00 for each first-year teacher over five.

**A total of \$60,000 will be available for this grant program.** Projects, if approved, will be funded on a first-come, first-serve basis until all grant money has been appropriated.

Allowable expenses:

- Payment for program facilitator/s (Maximum \$60/hour including benefits if paid)
- Payment for meeting presenters (as above)
- Meeting expenses such as copying, food, materials (that are designed specifically to support first-year teachers and are connected to meeting activities)
- Travel expenses for Network meetings
- 5% of expenses can go to district or REA for program facilitation

Non-allowable expenses:

- Substitute costs (districts can claim substitute reimbursement for these events as part of their claim under the Mentor Program)
- Materials not specifically designed to support your meeting activities with the first-year teachers. Our intent is for you to be able to provide resources for use with your meetings, not classroom materials. **If you have questions regarding specific resources, please get our approval prior to purchase.**
- Equipment

*Forms available at:*

<https://www.nd.gov/espb/TeacherSupport/index.html> under 'Applications for Beginning Teacher Network grants'

*Deadline for application:*

Proposals must be received by **4:00 PM on Wednesday, September 7, 2016 (but may be submitted any time before that for early approval)** at:

Laurie Stenehjem, Coordinator  
Teacher Support System  
2718 Gateway Drive, Suite 204  
Bismarck, ND 58503  
[lstenehj@nd.gov](mailto:lstenehj@nd.gov)  
Fax: 701-328-9647

*Important notes:*

- Time spent participating in this program DOES NOT replace or count toward the 30 hours of one-on-one mentor/first-year teacher conferencing time required in the Mentoring Program.
- Teachers participating in your Beginning Teacher Networks DO NOT need to be enrolled in the Mentoring Program (though we do want to emphasize that mentoring is THE MOST VALUABLE form of support you can provide).
- You may allow second-year or veteran teachers to participate in the **program if the expenses for the experienced teachers are paid for with other funding and identified in your budget proposal.** (This is because the Teacher Support System at this time is restricted by law to serving only first-year teachers.)
- You may arrange to offer credit for these opportunities.
- A teacher CANNOT be counted for payment for both a district and an REA grant.