



STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

P.O. BOX 83720  
BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0027

TOM LUNA  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

MEMORANDUM

**TO: Public School District Superintendents and Institutions of Higher Education STEM Faculty**  
**FROM: Scott Smith, Science Coordinator and Cindy Johnstone, Mathematics Coordinator**  
**DATE: October 23, 2009**

**RE: NOTICE INVITING APPLICATIONS FOR COMPETITIVE GRANTS**

The Idaho State Department of Education is pleased to invite proposals from Idaho school districts and institutions of higher education for professional development projects under the Mathematics and Science Partnership (MSP) Program. The focus of this year's program is on middle and high school science and mathematics.

Application procedures and funding criteria are included in a Request for Proposals (RFP) available online at the State Department of Education's Mathematics and Science websites, <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/Mathematics> or <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/Science>. The Mathematics and Science Partnership Program will support a limited number of three-year, high-quality professional development projects designed to improve teacher quality and student achievement in mathematics and science. All Idaho public and private school districts and institutions of higher education meeting partnership requirements are invited to submit proposals.

Proposals are being solicited at this time for professional development projects that may begin as early as April 2010. **The deadline for receipt of proposals under this year's competition is January 29, 2010.** The Department expects to notify successful applicants by March 26, 2010.

Please review the RFP carefully. This program differs significantly from past federally-funded mathematics and science professional development programs. Specifically, the Mathematics and Science Partnership Program requires that:

- (1) Partnerships must include, at a minimum, a school district; a higher education department of mathematics, science, or engineering; and a teacher-training department of an institution of higher education.
- (2) Proposals must be based on a district-level needs assessment of teacher quality and student achievement.
- (3) The project must be research-based.
- (4) The project must include a rigorous evaluation component that measures the project's impact on teacher quality and student achievement.

Please do not hesitate to call for assistance or additional information. Contact information is included in the application materials.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Cindy Johnstone in blue ink.

Cindy Johnstone

Handwritten signature of Scott M. Smith in blue ink.

Scott Smith