**High-Quality Instructional Materials & Professional Learning Initiative**

**Application for Pilot District Implementation**

(2018 – 2020)



**Contact:**

Academic Education Office

Office of Elementary Education & Reading

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601-359-2586

**Due Date:**

Wednesday, June 13, 2018 by 5:00 p.m. CDT

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STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

**Kim Benton, Ed.D.**

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**Introduction**

In Fall of 2017, the Mississippi Department of Education, through the Academic Education Office, launched the High-Quality Instructional Materials and Professional Learning (HQIM-PL) initiative. HQIM are defined as:

**Materials aligned with the Mississippi College- and Career- Readiness Standards, externally validated, comprehensive, and include engaging texts (books, multimedia, etc.), problems, and assessments. HQIM can be used to identify students’ areas of strength and opportunities for growth. HQIM are sequentially mapped and designed to prepare students to graduate ready for college and the workforce, educative for teachers, and accessible to student with differentiated needs.**

Our theory of action includes the belief that **IF** we establish a clear definition, compelling reasons, and incentives leading to the use of HQIM and aligned professional learning for districts, institutions of higher learning, and vendors in Mississippi, **THEN** we will accelerate student growth to proficient or advanced performance for students, as measured by the Mississippi Academic Assessment Program. Mississippi will initially focus on mathematics and expand to include other content areas in subsequent years.

The overall result of this initiative will be a strengthened review and selection process for textbooks and instructional materials for all schools in Mississippi. As a part of this pilot, the MDE is seeking districts that are interested in proactive participation, through the training of teachers for materials review, through the adoption of HQIM, and through participation in professional learning aligned to selected HQIM.

**Selection Process**

No less than eighteen (18) school districts are being sought to serve as HQIM-PL pilot sites. Each pilot district will implement HQIM and research-informed systems of curriculum-aligned professional learning with fidelity. A selection committee will review all completed applications submitted by the June 13, 2018 deadline. Consideration will be given first to districts in attendance at the March 29, 2018 HQIM Meeting.

**Instructions for Submission**

Interested districts must complete and submit pages 5 and 6, hereafter known as the “**Application**”, by Wednesday, June 13, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. CDT to be considered for selection as a pilot site. The Application is PDF-fillable and must be completed electronically. Completed applications must be submitted via email as an attachment to [tenette.smith@mdek12.org](mailto:tenette.smith@mdek12.org). All applicationsmust include a valid signature from the district superintendent.

**Rubric for Scoring**

Districts with completed applications will be considered for possible inclusion in the pilot program based upon the following criteria, with some consideration given to regional geographic distribution distribution across the state.

* Clear Goals and Outcomes (Question 1) 25 points
  + Clearly articulated goals aligned to district needs
  + Clearly articulated outcomes aligned to identified goals
* Evaluation of the Effectiveness of Professional Learning (Question 2) 25 points
  + Clearly articulated plan for professional learning
  + Clearly articulated plan for evaluating professional learning
* Commitment to Assurances (Question 3) 20 points
  + Clearly articulated plan for addressing the application assurances
  + Clearly articulated plan for securing math teacher buy-in
* District Capacity (Question 4) 20 points
* Participation in March 29, 2018 HQIM Meeting (Question 5) 10 points

**PLEASE NOTE**: Handwritten, faxed, and scanned applications will not be accepted. Also, a webinar will be hosted on June 1, 2018 to explain the project, the application and the expectations for commitment to the High-Quality Instructional Materials Initiative. Questions may be submitted via email before the webinar to assure that all inquiries are addressed.

**High-Quality Instructional Materials & Professional Learning Pilot District Application**

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| **DISTRICT POINTS OF CONTACT⏷** |
| Superintendent’s Name:  Date:  District Name:  HQIM Contact First Name:       Contact’s Last Name:  Contact’s Title/Role:        Contact’s Mailing Address:  Contact’s Email Address: |
| **GOALS AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS⏷**  **Question 1:**  What are your goals and desired outcomes as a district related to HQIM-PL implementation? Please limit response to 500 words or less.    **Question 2:**  How will you determine what HQIM-aligned professional learning will be provided in your district? How will you evaluate the effectiveness of HQIM-aligned professional learning delivered in your district? Please limit response to 500 words or less.    **Question 3:**  How will the district address the six assurances included within the application and secure buy-in from math teachers within your district? Please limit response to 500 words or less.    **Question 4:**  If your district is selected as one of the HQIM-PL pilot sites, please identify any circumstances that we should be aware of that may require additional assistance or support. For instance, you might want to note high teacher turnover rates, significant changes in district leadership, or similar circumstances. (Place an “X” in one box.) Yes       No  If you selected “YES”, please use the space here to provide further information. Please limit response to 500 words or less.    **Question 5:**  Did your district participate in the March 29, 2018 HQIM Meeting?  Yes       No | |
| **DISTRICT ASSURANCES ⏷**  By signing this statement, I hereby certify and assure that the school district will commit to the following:   1. Serve as a pilot district for three (3) academic years (2018-19, 2019-20, and 2020-21). 2. Release designated district and/or lead teachers for a maximum of six (6) school days for face-to-face and/or virtual training during each academic year. 3. Participate in periodic meetings and/or surveys administered by the MDE regarding district-wide implementation. 4. Participate in on-site observations conducted by MDE staff and its partners. 5. Work with institutions of higher learning to provide opportunities for pre-service teachers to complete teacher internships within the district. 6. Extend face-to-face professional learning and observation opportunities to teachers within the district, surrounding districts, and/or institutions of higher learning.     Superintendent’s Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | |
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