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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** State Executive Directors  
State Presidents

**FROM:** Andy Coons, Sr. Director, NEA Center for Professional Excellence & Student Learning  
David Boyd, Manager, NEA Center for Professional Excellence and Student Learning

**DATE:** August 16, 2023

**RE:** Announcing NEA CPESL Grant Programs for FY 2023-24

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The NEA Center for Professional Excellence and Student Learning (CPESL) announces the continuation of the following two (2) grant programs for 2023-24, beginning on September 1, 2023:

### **(1) PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE GRANTS:**

**Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis throughout the year, contingent upon available funding.**

Professional Excellence (PE) Grants are intended to develop and support practices and resources that promote a quality education profession; that incubate sound practices and gather key learnings that aid student success; and that promote a system that establishes the value of a quality, professionalized educator workforce and the role of the Association in creating and sustaining a system of professional supports.

Grant topics focus on the following two key education profession levers:

- A. **Family/Community Partnerships:** These grants are designed to develop, implement, or support programs that engage communities in improving the educational attainment and success of all children, particularly children of color or underserved youth in economically deprived communities.
- B. **Supporting Educators Across the Career Continuum:** The focus of these grants is to assist Affiliate engagement in programs and activities designed to support all educators across their career continuum to ensure student success. Within this focus, a priority is given to supporting the retention and professional success of educators of color.

State and Local Affiliates of NEA are eligible to apply for PE Grants through the NEA [website](#). Typically, funded grant requests range from \$3,000 to \$25,000 over a 1-year period. For questions about PE Grants, please email [CGPS-PF@nea.org](mailto:CGPS-PF@nea.org).

## **(2) GPS FUND GRANT PROGRAM:**

**The upcoming Planning Grant application deadline is September 15<sup>th</sup>.** Download the Planning Grant Preparation & Support Packet [here](#) (optional). Listen to a recorded webinar from earlier this year, which discusses the basics and timing of the Planning Grant process ([link](#)).

GPS Fund Grants are intended to enhance the quality of public education by developing, implementing, and leading an agenda that engages members with an emphasis on student-centered success and well-being through union-led efforts.

In February 2020, the NEA Board of Directors approved updated GPS Fund Grant Guidelines. The 2-step process includes the following highlights:

### **Step 1: PLANNING GRANT**

- a) Submission of a Planning Grant application begins the process. The deadline for submission of a Planning Grant application is no later than September 15<sup>th</sup> of each year.
- b) Planning Grant awards will be made by the Oversight Committee and decisions will be communicated no later than October 15<sup>th</sup> of each year.
- c) Those affiliates awarded Planning Grants will receive a small amount of funding (up to \$10,000) and other technical assistance from NEA in order to plan, workshop, and flesh out their full proposals in anticipation of the February 1st GPS Fund application deadline.

### **Step 2: GPS FUND GRANT**

- a) Affiliates that are awarded Planning Grants are eligible to submit a full GPS Fund application no later than February 1<sup>st</sup>.
- b) GPS Fund Grant award decisions will be communicated no later than April 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.
- c) GPS Fund Grants totaling less than \$50,000 (over the term of the proposal) are not eligible for award, with a max award of \$250,000 annually over 3 years.

State and Local Affiliates of NEA are eligible for, and can find information on, the GPS Fund grant program [here](#), including guidelines, Priority Focus areas, and the Planning Grant application link. For questions about the program, please email [GPSFund-PF@nea.org](mailto:GPSFund-PF@nea.org).