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KURT STEINHAUS, ED.D.
SECRETARY OF EDUCATION

MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM
GOVERNOR

June 16, 2022

MEMORANDUM

TO: Superintendents, Charter School Administrators, Curriculum and Instruction Directors, and Regional Education Cooperative Executive Directors

FROM: Jacqueline Costales, Interim Deputy Secretary, Teaching, Learning, and Assessment

RE: **SY2022–23 New Mexico Outdoor Learning Start-Up Grant**

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform you of the release of the NM Outdoor Learning Start-Up Grant.

This RFA is designed to promote innovation in the critical area of outdoor learning by expanding access to outdoor learning and environmental education programs for New Mexico students. Up to three hundred thousand ($300,000.00) in competitive grants are available to New Mexico PreK–12 public school districts or state-chartered charter schools, a group of public schools (consortium of schools), regional educational cooperatives, and single public schools in partnership with a community outdoor learning or environmental organization, to operate, expand, and sustain outdoor learning programs to:

1. Support outdoor learning and/or environmental education professional learning that integrates instruction in science, technology, engineering, arts, mathematics, literacy, social studies, or humanities.
2. Develop a plan to create a new outdoor learning program, including training and supporting public school teachers on outdoor learning protocols and best practices, and developing an outdoor learning space/outdoor classroom on school grounds.

All eligible entities awarded grant funding must participate in a Community of Practice (CoP) through the PED during the SY2022–2023 in order to receive grant funds. Failure to actively participate will result in awarded funds being returned to the PED. The PED will organize and run the CoP.

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The SY2022–23 New Mexico Outdoor Learning Start-Up Grant will be released on the information page of the PED's website on Tuesday, June 21, 2022 and all applications must be **submitted by 4:00 pm on Wednesday, July 20, 2022 though Canvas**. Pursuant to the issuance of the grant, officials from the PED will host a virtual meeting to provide a high-level overview, discuss the intention and guidelines of the RFA with interested stakeholders on Tuesday, June 21, from 2:00–3:00 pm MST. Please register for this webinar through the ZOOM link at https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAuf-GprzMrHNEkaRgUxF3yHXnjppAnuIAf
If you have questions or issues regarding registration, please email Shafiq.Chaudhary@state.nm.us.

For questions regarding the New Mexico Outdoor Learning Start-Up Grant, please contact Shafiq Chaudhary, Interim Director of Math and Science Bureau, at Shafiq.Chaudhary@state.nm.us or Christy Krenek, Science Specialist, at Christy.Krenek@state.nm.us.

JC/sc

cc: Kurt Steinhaus, Secretary of Education
Seana Flanagan, Interim Managing Director, Office of the Secretary
Vickie C. Bannerman, Deputy Secretary of Identity, Equity and Transformation
Angelo Gonzales, Interim Deputy Secretary, School Transformation and Innovation
Rebecca Reyes, Assistant Secretary of Indian Education
Antonio Ortiz, Division Director, Finance and Operations

Enc. (1): New Mexico Outdoor Learning Start-Up Grants Timeline

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New Mexico Outdoor Learning Start-Up Grants Timeline

Program managers will make every effort to adhere to the following schedule:

Action	Responsible Party	Due Dates
Discuss RFA with interested stakeholders	PED	June 21, 2022
Issue RFA	PED	June 21, 2022
Deadline to submit Intent to Apply	Potential applicants	July 6, 2022
Deadline to submit questions	Potential applicants	July 11, 2022
Response to questions	PED	July 14, 2022
Submission of applications	***Potential applicants***	***July 20, 2022***
Evaluation of applications	Review Panel	July 21 – July 27, 2022
Selection of grantees	Review Panel	July 28–29, 2022
Finalize award memos	PED/Grantee(s)	July 29 – August 22, 2022
Award Memo(s) Transmission	PED/Grantee(s)	August 23, 2022