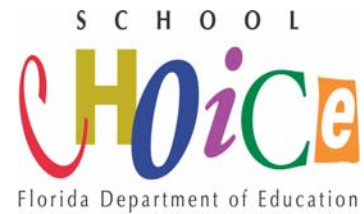


# Frequently Asked Questions

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## Interdistrict Agreements for Expanding School Choice through Voluntary Public School Choice (VPSC) Models

In addition to reviewing the Frequently Asked Questions, it is strongly recommended that individuals view the RFP Proposal Training videos available on the Voluntary Public School Choice web page to assist in generating the RFP application.

### **Who may enter into partnerships?**

Partnerships must be established between separate county school districts not governed by the same district school board as defined by Florida statute\*. At least two school districts are required per interdistrict agreement model. Multiple district partnerships are allowed as long as the design and development of the proposed interdistrict agreement model includes each partnering district.

\*F.S. 1001.30 District unit

### **Can a statutorily created district, such as the Florida Virtual School, serve as a partnering district?**

For purposes of the VPSC Interdistrict Agreement Models, districts entering into a collaborative partnership must meet statutory requirements as referenced above.

### **Can a model include a collaborative partnership with a local community college?**

Services may be rendered by Institutes of Higher Education (IHE). The proposed interdistrict agreement model must provide details of the collaborative relationship. IHEs are not to be considered as a partnership, but rather be included as a supplemental educational service provider.

### **What is considered a low-performing school?**

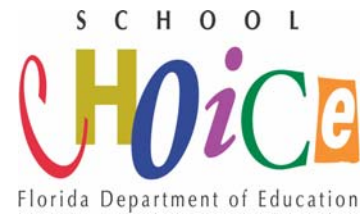
For purposes of implementing the Voluntary Public School Choice (VPSC) project, lower-performing is defined under ESEA/NCLB, Title V, Part B, Subpart 3, section 5247 (3) as “a public...school that has failed to make adequate yearly progress, as described in section 1111(b), for two or more consecutive years.”

### **If a large urban school district is divided into different geographic areas, can a model include students moving within the divided areas and be considered an Interdistrict Transfer?**

NO. An interdistrict agreement model must consist of a partnership between two separate county school districts.

# Frequently Asked Questions

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## Interdistrict Agreements for Expanding School Choice through Voluntary Public School Choice (VPSC) Models

### **Could an 'Interdistrict Model' include a partnership between non-adjacent school districts if the model's design includes technical assistance among partnering districts to replicate and implement a Career Academy as a school choice option in one of a partnering district's Schools In Need of Improvement (SINI) school(s)?**

YES. Partnerships in an interdistrict model may consist of non-adjacent school districts as long as the model's design details the goals, implementation plan, and significance of impact on the targeted student population(s) in both partnering districts.

### **What percentage of the grant money can be used for salaries?**

The Fiscal Requirements section of the RFP states: "Administrative Costs including Indirect Costs: For Federally funded projects, indirect costs are capped at the applicant's approved negotiated rate. No more than 5 percent of the funds made available through the grant for any fiscal year may be used for administrative expenses."

Federal "Legislation, Regulations, and Guidance" pertaining to the VPSC program is found at <http://www.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/esea02/pg64.html>, which states under subpart 3., SEC. 5242., USES OF FUNDS., (d) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES- The eligible entity may use not more than 5 percent of the funds made available through the grant for any fiscal year for administrative expenses.

Partnering districts are encouraged to work closely with their Financial Office to help determine salaries associated with direct services versus indirect services.

No other salary limitations have been established.

### **Can a word version of the RFP Attachments be provided for district use in their application?**

Word files for the RFP Attachments may be accessed at: <http://www.floridaschoolchoice.org/Information/vpsc/training.asp>.

### **Is the transfer of FTE from one district to another considered a tuition transfer?**

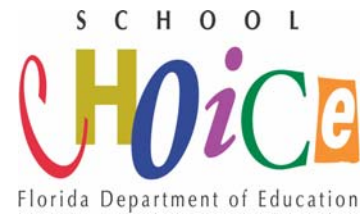
YES. For purposes of the VPSC Interdistrict Agreement Models, transfer of FTE from one district to another is considered a tuition transfer. Information regarding FTE calculation and distribution of funds can be found at <http://www.fldoe.org/feftp/>.

### **Do the interdistrict seats created in a proposed interdistrict agreement model have to have an application period that is coordinated and occurring simultaneously between the partnering districts?**

The application for collaborating district partnerships will provide details of the proposed interdistrict agreement model's design that outlines the student application process between partnering school districts. Partnering districts are expected to clarify any topics related, but not limited to,

# Frequently Asked Questions

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## Interdistrict Agreements for Expanding School Choice through Voluntary Public School Choice (VPSC) Models

- The policy that dictates the procedure should a proposed model be over-subscribed;
- The dissemination plan of how parents and students will be notified of the available interdistrict option; and
- Other pertinent information related to the coordination of the project design and implementation.

### **How many districts attended the RFP Proposal Training session? Of the districts that attended the trainings, are they considered to be a small, medium, or large district?**

Five districts were represented at the RFP Proposal Training sessions.

Consideration related to the size of the districts does not affect the review of the interdistrict agreement model. The VPSC Interdistrict project aims to implement a minimum of three unique interdistrict agreement models that are independent and address the inherent characteristics of the participating public school districts need. Ideally, each interdistrict agreement model will represent a different geographic formation represented within the state of Florida.

### **If a district is currently writing an application with another district, can they write a separate application with a different district?**

YES. A district may submit multiple applications, as long as the proposed interdistrict agreement model is unique and separate from the other proposed applications.

### **Is there a limit to the number of districts that can be a part of a single application?**

NO. There is no limit to the number of districts that can participate in a single application. The role for which each partnering district is responsible within the proposed interdistrict or multi-interdistrict agreement model must be clearly defined.

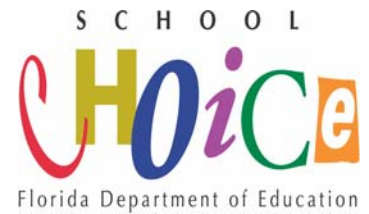
### **How much funding is available within the five-year VPSC program specific to the interdistrict agreement project?**

The Department of Education seeks to implement a minimum of three interdistrict agreement models. Total funding available during the five-year program performance period includes:

- \$743,500 in year one
  - (planning and program design – Award Notification Date through September 30, 2008)
- \$1,200,000 years two through four
  - (planning and program design, plus implementation periods – October 1, 2008 through September 30, 2011)
- \$900,000 year five
  - (final program evaluation period – October 1, 2011 through September 30, 2012)

# Frequently Asked Questions

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## Interdistrict Agreements for Expanding School Choice through Voluntary Public School Choice (VPSC) Models

### **What is the funding amount that will be awarded per interdistrict agreement model?**

A minimum of \$100,000 to a maximum of \$170,000 *is expected to be awarded* during the first budget period for each approved interdistrict and/or multi-interdistrict agreement model. Funding will depend on the number of submitted interdistrict agreement models that are reviewed and approved by the department. Keep in mind, districts should submit a budget that reflects the fiscal components that relate to the planning and program design period of the proposed interdistrict agreement model.

### **Where are the RFP Proposal Training videos located?**

The RFP Proposal Training videos may be accessed at:  
<http://www.floridaschoolchoice.org/Information/vpsc/training.asp>.