



Department
for Education

Assessment innovation fund

As part of our reforms to the national curriculum, the current system of 'levels' used to report children's attainment and progress will be removed from the new national curriculum from September 2014.

Many schools and teaching schools are already developing and sharing new curriculum and assessment systems in advance of these changes.

We are setting up a small innovation fund to enable schools to share these systems and processes on a much wider basis. We want to encourage schools to develop packages that clearly explain their approach to assessment for others to access and use if they wish.

Purpose

By collecting and promoting examples of innovative approaches to assessment, we want to give schools ideas and options as they upgrade their systems in response to the removal of levels

We are therefore asking schools and organisations to present their approaches to the Department: where needed, we can allocate funding (of up to £10,000 per unique application) to help create a simple, easy-to-use package for other schools to transfer and use in their own setting.

Each package will then be made freely available for other schools to access, download and use.

Criteria

Assessment should help teachers to develop a real understanding of a pupils' abilities and how to help them progress. It should be linked to teaching and planning, underpinned by expectations in line with the new national curriculum. We are looking for entries from schools where this already takes place.

We will be looking for systems that are inclusive of children of all abilities, easily understood, easily transferable and which represent good value for money.

We expect to identify up to 10 unique proposals.

Eligibility

Any school or other organisation can apply so long as successful applicants make their approach available on an open licence basis. This means that anyone who wishes to use the package (and any trade-marked name) must be granted a non-revocable, perpetual, royalty-free licence to do so with the right to sub-licence. The intellectual property rights to the system will remain with the school/group which devised it.

We will accept entries from schools/organisations that cover individual subjects as well as those which relate to the whole curriculum. We will accept more than one application per school, but only if each application concerns a different and unique assessment system.

We strongly encourage collaboration, so we will also accept partnership bids (for instance, a number of schools may have collaborated to design one system) – please include details of this on the application form, if applicable.

Teaching schools funded through the 'Assessment for the new national curriculum initiative' being run by the National College for Teaching and Leadership (NCTL), will not be eligible for funding through the Assessment Innovation Fund.

Application process

Expression of interest

Applicants should submit a completed expression of interest form, which will ask for:

- Name and position of a lead contact,
- Name of the school / organisation
- Details of any partnership, cluster, Academy Chain etc where the assessment approach is used
- A brief description of the approach to assessment (up to 250 words).

Full proposal

Shortlisted schools and organisations will then be asked to submit more detail to also include:

- Evidence base - an application must show evidence of the use of the particular approach and why it has been successful,
- Financial details (where relevant),
- Endorsements from other schools (if used elsewhere).
- How the school might use the available funding, if successful.

Implement

Once successful applicants have been chosen, the Department will work with them to establish ways in which they can disseminate their ideas, assessment systems and processes. A maximum of £10,000 will be available to support each successful application.

Deadlines

All expressions of interest must be received by **Friday 14 February 2014**. At this point applications will be assessed by an independent judging panel against the above criteria.

Applicants successful at this stage will then be informed during week commencing **Monday 24 February** about whether they will be required to submit a full proposal (outlined above).

Successful applicants will then be announced week commencing **Monday 21 April 2014**.

Contact details

To submit your application or ask for further details, please email: Assessment.fund@education.gsi.gov.uk