



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Colleges Can Apply for Funds to Increase Teacher Quality in High-Need K-12 Schools**

Indiana's public and private colleges are invited to apply for the *Improving Teacher Quality Partnership Program* grants. The Indiana Commission for Higher Education will receive approximately \$940,000 in federal funds for this competitive grant program that brings together Indiana colleges and high-need school districts to support professional development for teachers in core subjects.

The proposal deadline is 5 p.m. EDT, Monday, October 31, 2016. Eligible applications must include the following: 1) a postsecondary school of education, 2) a postsecondary school of arts and sciences, and 3) a high-need local education agency, as defined by the U.S. Department of Education.

Applications can be found at [www.in.gov/che/3171.htm](http://www.in.gov/che/3171.htm).

### **Required Project Components**

- Aligns to Indiana's Academic Standards and the high-need school's Local Improvement Plan.
- Provides professional development to teachers in core academic subjects and scientifically-based instruction.
- Plans for independent evaluation and program sustainability.
- Incorporates metrics and assessments to gauge project's effectiveness in improving student performance.

### **Components for Project Preference**

- Align classroom curriculum and instruction with expectations for college and career readiness.
- Promote strategies that engage students in rigorous, scientifically-based instruction in the STEM disciplines, English/Language Arts, Reading and Social Studies.
- Increase the number of highly-qualified minority teachers and other underrepresented groups.

The *Improving Teacher Quality Partnership Program* grant is funded by and operates under the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2015. It was created under the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) and is the largest federal initiative that supports professional development projects for teachers and principals—with a special focus on high-need school districts and higher education institutions. Through this legislation, state education agencies, local education agencies and state agencies for higher education receive funds on a formula basis for programs such as Indiana's *Improving Teacher Quality Partnership Program*.