



Dear Colleagues:

The Missouri Department of Higher Education is pleased to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for Cycle-12 of the *Improving Teacher Quality Grant* (ITQG) program. This RFP is targeted to partnerships between high-need K-12 school districts and institutions of higher education to provide professional development opportunities for K-12 teachers in **core academic subjects**.

There will be approximately \$400,000 available to fund new grant proposals. Awards will be based on the ability to bring about improvement in the following areas of the ITQG program goals:

- Student achievement in targeted math and/or science content areas
- Teachers' content knowledge in math and/or science content areas
- Teachers' instructional practices in inquiry-based instruction
- Teachers' design and use of student-learning assessment methods to improve instruction
- The preparation of pre-service teachers at partner institutions of higher education

Cycle-12 proposals will target grades kindergarten to twelve and the core academic subjects of math and/or science integrated with literacy. Proposals will have a competitive focus on professional development for school administrators and others who mentor and evaluate teachers.

To date, more than 80 ITQG projects have been funded in 200+ school districts across Missouri. More than 2,000 teachers have participated in at least one of these projects, and these teachers have directly impacted almost 140,000 students.

The ITQG program is funded by the U.S. Department of Education under Title II, Part A of the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001*. ITQG is fulfilling a need for subject-specific and on-going professional development for teachers and administrators in the state. Improving Teacher Quality Grants have the potential to make a sustained impact on science and mathematics education in Missouri.

The MDHE encourages Missouri's educational leaders to submit high quality proposals that will generate systemic change and benefit students, high-need school districts and higher education institutions.

The following link leads to the MDHE Improving Teacher Quality RFP and related forms:

<http://www.mdhe.mo.gov/ppc/grants/teacherquality.php>

If you have any questions or need technical assistance, please contact the Missouri State ITQG Coordinator, Dr. Liz Valentine, at elizabeth.valentine@dhe.mo.gov or 573-751-1764.

Sincerely,

Rusty Monhollon, Ph.D.
Assistant Commissioner for Academic Affairs