



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

OFFICE OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF

EDUCATION

Questions for the Environmental Literacy Fellowship Grant

Q: The RFA says that the fellow will work with up to three elementary schools in the introduction, but then in the program requirements it says the fellow will provide a minimum of 20 hours of service per week at three schools. Will the fellow definitely work at 3 schools?

A: Possibly. OSSE will designate the schools based on the schools represented in the 2016 Environmental Literacy Leadership Cadre. At this point, we do not know how many schools will be represented, but the fellow will not be assigned to more than three schools.

Q: The fellow will be responsible for working on composting, recycling, and school gardens. Do they have to start a composting program? And built a school garden, if the school doesn't have one?

A: No, fellows are not responsible for initiating new composting, recycling, and school garden projects. The fellow will be responsible for assessing the current state of the projects at the school and creating a plan for improvement or to ensure continued success in program delivery. For example: for DCPS schools, this could mean working with Beth Gingold to ensure all recycling supplies are properly ordered and distributed; if the school doesn't have a garden, it could mean working with them to identify a good location and walk them through the steps of applying for a future OSSE school garden grant; or if the teacher who started the recycling program has left, what steps can the school take so the program continues.

Q: Can a fellow be a school garden coordinator?

A: Yes, a fellow can be a school garden coordinator. However, the scope of the fellow's responsibilities will be more than just school gardens.

Q: What happens if there aren't enough grant applications to host eight fellows?

A: OSSE will determine whether there are still an appropriate number of fellows to match with the schools represented in the 2016 Environmental Literacy Leadership Cadre. Fellows will not be assigned to more than three schools.

Q: When will the schools in the cadre be known? Are the fellows randomly assigned to schools?

A: Schools represented in the 2016 Environmental Literacy Leadership Cadre are posted on the OSSE website <http://osse.dc.gov/service/environmental-literacy-leadership-cadre>. Fellows will be assigned by OSSE, but organizations can list school preferences on their application.

Q: How will the fellows work with the Environmental Literacy Advancement Grant organizations?

A: The role of the fellow will be based on the needs of the school, but examples could be helping with scheduling field experiences and coordinating meetings with teachers.

Q: What will the fellows do in the summer?

A: Most likely, this will be based on the needs of the school. It can be school garden maintenance, developing and documenting the school practices that will result in school garden, recycling, and composting programs being sustained over time, and writing recommendations on how to work with schools to create and adopt practices.

Q: Does the fellow have to work 20 hours every week during their fellowships?

A: Not necessarily. The RFA states that fellows will provide 20 hours as the minimum amount of service per week for six months, and that should be used to calculate your grant budget. However, it is possible that certain months (April and May) may require more hours than others (such as July and August).

For more information, please contact:

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