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August 26, 2009

To: Interested Parties

From: Joseph P. Frey 

Subject: Smart Scholars Early College High School Program  
Intermediary Request for Proposal (RFP)

Background:

In August 2009, the State Education Department<sup>1</sup> announced a new grant program to establish a network of early college high schools in New York State. This new program, known as the Smart Scholars Early College High School (ECHS) Program, will consist of approximately twenty-three (23) ECHS partnerships, through two separate cohorts.

The first cohort consists of a competitive proposal application process where up to 11 early college high schools will be funded for a four year period. These programs will begin their planning year (December 1, 2009 – August 31, 2010) and then have three years of completion. A copy of this RFP can be found at <http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/smartscholars.html>. A second RFP process will take place in the spring/summer of 2010 and will fund up to an additional 12 early college high schools. This second cohort is contingent upon receipt of an appropriation from the Legislature in the 2010-2011 State budget.

The partnerships that will comprise the Smart Scholars Early College High Schools will consist of eligible local education agencies (LEAs), especially those serving students from “high need” or “very high need” schools<sup>2</sup> and institutions of higher education (IHEs). The IHE will be a public (SUNY/CUNY), independent or proprietary college or university that offers programs registered by the State Education Department. These institutions can be found at <http://www.nysed.gov/heds/IRPSL1.html>.

<sup>1</sup> University of the State of New York/Regents Research Fund

<sup>2</sup> See definitions in Appendices D-1 and D-2 of the Smart Scholars Early College High School Partnerships RFP available at: <http://emsc.nysed.gov/smartscholars.html>

### Intermediary RFP:

This RFP will allow respondents to compete for up to \$500,000 in funding to support the first cohort of Smart Scholars partnerships. The statewide intermediary will work with the first set of Smart Scholars ECHS providing technical assistance to the schools and assisting them in establishing the structure, governance, curricula and student assessments of the innovative schools. A copy of this RFP is located at <http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/smartscholars.html>.

The selected intermediary must demonstrate expertise in developing and implementing early college high schools and curricula. Consultant services requested from this RFP are sought to provide each of the approximately 11 funded Smart Scholars ECHS partnerships with the technical capacity required to organize and implement these partnerships through the four year life of the initiative, and to set a path for the Smart Scholars ECHS partnership schools toward long-term success.

The selected intermediary organization will not be considered an employee of the State of New York. With the receipt of State funds in the 2010-2011 budget, a second RFP will be issued for an intermediary organization to provide technical assistance and support to the second cohort of Smart Scholars Early College High Schools. Receipt of a contract issued through this RFP does not preclude an application for the second RFP.

It is anticipated that the start date of the first partnership cohort will begin on December 1, 2009 for a planning phase, and will enroll the first cohort of students in September 2010. The statewide intermediary will begin work at approximately the same time.

### **Purpose of Intermediary Organization:**

- To assist the University of the State of New York (USNY) in establishing and coordinating the network of Smart Scholars Early College High Schools;
- To ensure consistency of design and implementation of the Smart Scholars Early College High Schools;
- To provide cost effective planning and start-up support to these schools; and
- To ensure ongoing school improvement and accountability among them.

### **Bidders Conference:**

A Bidders Conference will be conducted as a Webinar and is scheduled for Monday, August 31, 2009 from 10:00 AM until 12:00 PM. To reserve a spot, send an E-mail to: [INTERMEDRFP@mail.nysed.gov](mailto:INTERMEDRFP@mail.nysed.gov), Subject: Intermediary Bidders Webinar.

All interested bidders should consider attending this Webinar because critical project information will be shared, followed by a question and answer period. After we receive your reservation request, we will provide you with the technical information needed to participate in

the Webinar. The Webinar will be recorded and posted on our Web site for future access. It will be available at: <http://emsc.nysed.gov/smartscholars.html>.

**Important Dates:**

RFP Webinar is scheduled for August 31, 2009  
Proposals must be postmarked by November 1, 2009  
Applicants will be informed by December 1, 2009  
Intermediary projected start date: December 15, 2009

This is a very exciting undertaking and we are looking forward to receiving your proposals.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Gloria Bartowski or Kathleen Egan at (518) 474-1551, or via E-mail at [gbartows@mail.nysed.gov](mailto:gbartows@mail.nysed.gov) or [kegan2@mail.nysed.gov](mailto:kegan2@mail.nysed.gov).

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