Jacob K. Javits Gifted and Talent Students Education Program

Are charter schools eligible to apply for Javits grants?

As a general matter, charter schools are public schools and, therefore, are eligible to apply for Javits grants as public entities. Some charter schools are also considered to be LEAs under their States’ charter school laws – these charter schools are eligible to apply for Javits grants as public entities or as LEAs.

Are private schools, including Catholic and other religious schools, eligible to apply directly to the Department for these grants?

Yes, private schools are eligible to apply directly to the Department for Javits grants as private agencies or organizations to the extent they meet the eligibility and all other applicable requirements. If a private school is awarded a Javits grant, it then becomes a recipient of Federal financial assistance and is subject to the laws and regulations that apply to recipients of Federal funds as well as the specific requirements of the Javits program. This is a factor for all prospective applicants, particularly private and religious entities, to consider prior to applying for a grant.

8. Are grant recipients required to provide for the equitable participation of private school students and teachers?

Yes, under section 4644(g) of the ESEA, Javits grantees must provide for the “equitable participation of students and teachers in private nonprofit elementary and secondary schools, including the participation of teachers and other personnel in professional development programs serving such students.”

To meet this requirement, each eligible entity applying for a grant under the Javits program must reach out to private school officials in the geographic area to be served by the grant program and inquire as to their interest in having their students and teachers participate in the proposed project. If private school officials express an interest in having their students and teachers participate in the proposed Javits project, the applicant should begin consultation with those private school officials regarding how to provide for the equitable participation of those private school students and teachers in the proposed project.

The eligible entity should engage in consultation with private school officials and provide them with information related to the program, including the allowable activities available to private school students and teachers, the roles of public and private school officials, and how the specific needs of private school students and teachers would be addressed within the parameters of the program. The eligible entity also should provide opportunities for the private school officials to ask questions and offer suggestions about the proposed project. Then, in developing the grant proposal, the eligible entity takes the information provided by the private school officials into consideration in order to provide for the equitable participation of those private school students and teachers.

The consultation between the applicant and private school officials should occur before the applicant makes any decision that affects the opportunities of private school children and teachers to participate in the project and should be ongoing throughout the design and development of the program. If prior to, or following consultation, the private school officials express that they are not interested in having their students and teachers participate in the program, the eligible entity has no further obligation to those private schools, assuming that the eligible entity has provided clear and sufficient notice of the deadline for responding and given adequate time for private school officials to respond.

For a list of private schools in your geographic area, non-LEA applicants may want to contact the LEA in which the Javits program will be implemented to inquire about private schools (located within the geographic area of the LEA) that have previously expressed to the LEA an interest in participating in Federal education programs, or use the Department’s private school locator at http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/pss/privateschoolsearch/.