

## CHAPTER 40. GRANTS AND PROGRAMS-IN-AID

### SUBCHAPTER 83. QUALIFIED ZONE ACADEMY BONDS

#### 210:40-83-1. Purpose [REVOKED]

~~—The rules of this Subchapter have been adopted in accordance with the federal Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997 for the purpose of providing procedures for solicitation, acceptance, and evaluation of applications for Qualified Zone Academy status.~~

#### 210:40-83-2. Definitions [REVOKED]

~~The following words and terms, when used in this Subchapter, shall have the following meaning unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:~~

~~—"Qualified contribution" means any contribution of a type and quality acceptable to the eligible local education agency (LEA) of equipment to be used in the qualified zone academy; technical assistance in developing curriculum or in training teachers in order to promote appropriate market-driven technology in the classroom; services of employees as volunteer mentors; internships; field trips, or other educational opportunities outside the academy for students; or any other property or service specified by the eligible local education agency.~~

~~—"Qualified purpose" means rehabilitating or repairing the public school facility in which the academy is established; providing equipment for use at such academy; developing course materials for education to be provided at such academy; and training teachers and other school personnel in such academy.~~

~~—"Qualified Zone Academy" means any public school or academic program within a public school which is established by and operated under the supervision of an eligible local education agency to provide education or training below the postsecondary level if such school or program is designed in cooperation with business to enhance the academic curriculum, increase graduation and employment rates, and better prepare students for the rigors of college and the increasingly complex work force; students in such public school or program will be subject to the same academic standards and assessments as other students educated by the LEA; the comprehensive education plan of such school or program is approved by the LEA; and the school is located in an empowerment zone or enterprise community or there is a reasonable expectation that at least 35 percent of the students attending the school or program will be eligible for free or reduced-cost lunches under the National School Lunch program.~~

#### 210:40-83-3. Procedures for solicitation and acceptance of district applications [REVOKED]

~~(a) A notification letter will be sent by the State Department of Education to each district superintendent or elementary superintendent announcing the availability of the application forms for Qualified Zone Academy status.~~

~~(b) The notification will clearly state the name and telephone number of the contact person at the Department who administers the program.~~

~~(c) The signature of the superintendent of the local education agency must appear on the application.~~

~~(d) The application and three copies must be submitted to the contact person. A specific deadline will be clearly stated in the application solicitation letter. This date may vary from year to year depending upon availability of funds.~~

~~(e) The applications will be accepted and funds allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.~~

~~(f) Applications must be fully completed and satisfy all criteria in order to be considered.~~

~~(g) All applications must include the following:~~

~~(1) Public school must be located in an empowerment zone or enterprise community OR have 35 percent of the students (or participants in the program) must be eligible for free or reduced-cost lunches under the Federal school lunch program.~~

~~(2) The school must enter a public-private partnership.~~

~~(3) The academic program of the school must be designed in cooperation with business to enhance the academic curriculum, increase graduation and employment rates, and better prepare students for the rigors of college and the increasingly complex work force.~~

~~(4) The school must have commitments for substantial business support and qualified contributions of at least 10 percent of the capital provided. Qualified contributions include: equipment for use in the school, technical assistance in developing the curriculum or in training the teachers, services of employees as volunteer mentors, internships, field trips, or other educational opportunities outside the academy, or other property or service specified by the local school board.~~

~~(5) Ninety-five percent or more of the proceeds of the issue must be used for a qualified purpose.~~

~~(6) The issuer of the bond or loan must certify that it has written assurances that the private business contribution requirement will be met with respect to the school.~~

~~(7) The issuer of the bond or loan must certify that it has the written approval of the local school board for the issuance.~~

~~(h) The maximum bonding amount which can be requested under the Qualified Zone Academy Bond program is \$1,000,000.~~

~~(i) After evaluation, the State Superintendent will recommend to the State Board of Education those applications which have been determined to be eligible for funding.~~

#### 210:40-83-4. Evaluation procedure [REVOKED]

Applications will be evaluated to ensure that all criteria set out in the enabling legislation has been met. The applications will be accepted and allocations granted on a first-come, first-served basis for the amount requested in the application to the extent possible under Oklahoma's allocation. If an application can only be partially-funded, the local education agency requesting the allocation will be given the option of taking a lesser amount or deferring to the next applicant on the list.

**210:40-83-5. Return of unused allocation [REVOKED]**

(a) Any local education agency which receives an allocation under the Qualified Zone Academy Bond program but does not utilize the full amount of the allocation will notify the contact person at the State Department of Education of the amount not used. Notification will occur at such time as the local education agency is reasonably sure a portion of the allocation will not be used. The purpose of the notification will be to "return" the unused portion of the allocation to the State Department of Education for reallocation to other qualified applicants.

(b) Upon notification by a local education agency of an unused portion of an allocation, the administrator of the program at the State Department of Education will determine if qualified applications for the Qualified Zone Academy Bond program remain unfunded. If such applications exist, the procedures for funding cited in section 210:40-83-3 (i) of this subchapter will be followed. If no qualified applications exist, the returned allocation will be held over to the next funding year and allocated at that time.