

FY 2026 After School Programs – Non-School Districts

Frequently Asked Questions

Updated October 10, 2025

Question 1: I logged into IWAS looking for the After School grant opportunity and it is not listed. I have an RCDT Code and completed the Intent to Apply. How can I access the grant?

Answer: Please refer to page 3 of the FY 2026 After School Programs - Non-School Districts NOFO-RFP which states if you have questions related to access to IWAS, please contact the Help Desk at (217)558-3600 Option 3 or email to the help link at help@isbe.net. To access the FY 2026 After School Programs – Non-School Districts Grant login to IWAS -> System Listings -> After School Programs – Non-School Districts RFP. **If you do not see this option under your Active Grants listing, click on “Want to Signup for Other Systems?” at the bottom of that page. This will allow you to request access. Only entities that have completed the Intent to Apply and have a valid RCDT code will be granted access.

Question 2: What grades are eligible for this grant?

Answer: Please refer to page 2 of the FY 2026 After School Programs - Non-School Districts NOFO-RFP which states, the program aims to serve *school-aged youth* in after-school programming and out-of-school time opportunities.

Question 3: Is there a cap for the number of schools an applicant can apply for within a single application?

Answer: Please refer to page 2 of the FY 2026 After School Programs – Non-School Districts NOFO-RFP which states, there is no minimum number of students served requirement for this competition. All schools must be listed on the application.

Question 4: We are having trouble accessing the After School Programs – Non-LEA RFP in IWAS. When we open the RFP it says, “District is not eligible to create an application for the current school year.”

Answer: Please refer to question #1 of this document.

Question 5: Please confirm for-profit companies are eligible to apply for this grant opportunity.

Answer: Please refer to page 1 of the FY 2026 After School Programs – Non-School Districts NOFO-RFP which states, entities that are not school districts or Local Education Agencies (LEAs) are eligible to apply. These entities include, but are not

limited to, Regional Offices of Education (ROEs); Intermediate Service Centers (ISCs); community-based organizations, including faith-based organizations; or Indian tribes or tribal organization (as defined in federal Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act).

Question 6: Can we propose to serve schools that are currently being served in our FY 2025 grant, in the FY 2026 After School Programs – Non-School Districts application? The schools meet all criteria of the RFP.

Answer: Yes, entities may propose to serve schools that have previously been served.

Question 7: What do I need to do before I can apply?

Answer: All entities must submit an Intent to Apply (ITA) to access the IWAS system, and establish an RCDT code, if you do not already have one.

Question 8: How can I access the Intent to Apply?

The [Intent to Apply \(ITA\)](#) can be accessed on the [After School Programs](#) website.

- The ITA must be completed by June 6, 2025. **ISBE cannot guarantee that entities who submit the ITA after this date will be able to complete the preparations needed to access the RFP in IWAS.**
- Entities must complete an ITA form before they may submit a proposal in response to the RFP.
- All interested entities, including entities that have previously been awarded an ASP – Non-LEA Grant, must complete an ITA.
- Submission of the ITA does not obligate an entity to apply for the grant through the RFP. Similarly, submission of the ITA does not guarantee eligibility for or award of the grant.
- In addition to the ITA, entities also must meet all eligibility requirements and submit a proposal in accordance with the requirements outlined in the RFP, once available.

Question 9: How can I obtain an RCDT code?

For ISBE to create a new RCDT code, entities must complete the W-9 and Entity Add forms for their organization. These forms can be accessed on the [After School Programs](#) website. Completed forms should be returned to us at afterschool@isbe.net. Please allow four weeks for this process to be completed. Entities will receive their new RCDT code via email as soon as the code has been created.

Question 10: Does the limit on 5% for administrative costs also apply for organizations that have an established Federally Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement?

Answer: Please refer to page 8 of the FY 2026 After School Programs – Non-School Districts NOFO-RFP which states, that no more than 5 percent of the total grant award shall be used for administrative and general expenses (General Administration 2300). This applies to all entities.

Question 11: Is there a link to the Technical Assistance Webinar?

Answer: Please refer to the [After School Programs](#) webpage to access the [FY26 After School Programs - Non-School Districts Webinar](#).

Question 12: Can we serve the same students if either of the following are true:

- (a) programs offered in the Fall/Winter were funded through the FY25 grant and programs offered in the Spring/Summer were funded through the FY26 grant
- (b) different programs are offered during the same program season just on different days, i.e. the physical activity programs outlined in FY25 are funded through that grant and run on Mondays and Wednesdays and we add our literacy component using FY26 funds on Tuesdays and Thursdays
- Is it only that we can serve the same schools, just not the same students (even if the programs are different)?
 - For instance, we are serving 6th-8th grade with FY25 but 3rd-5th with FY26.

Answer: The FY2026 After School Programs – Non-School Districts NOFO-RFP does not prevent schools/students served under the FY25 grant from being served under the FY26 grant.

Question 13: May I still submit the Intent to Apply?

Answer: Intent to Apply responses that were submitted after June 6, 2025 are being processed in the order received. ISBE cannot guarantee that entities who submitted responses after that date will gain access to the application in time to submit a proposal before the October 14 deadline. ISBE will stop accepting Intent to Apply submissions at 4:00pm on Friday, September 12, 2025.

Question 14: Is there a list of entities that can apply based on completing the ITA by June 6th?

Answer: ISBE cannot publicly share the names of potential awardees.

Question 15: Is there a limit on how many schools we can apply for?

Answer: Please refer to page 1 of the FY 2026 After School Programs – Non-School Districts NOFO-RFP which states, there is no minimum number of students served requirement for this competition.

Question 16: Is there a maximum amount of money we can apply for?

Answer: Applicants should apply for funding based on need, as determined by the applicant and the results of the needs assessment. ISBE reserves the right to determine the number, and the amount awards based upon the total funds appropriated for this program. Grantees may not be awarded the full amount of requested funding.

Question 17: Is there any guidance on the typical average amount provided?

No anticipated award is indicated in the NOFO/RFP. Applicants should apply for funding based on need, as determined by the applicant and the results of the needs assessment. ISBE reserves the right to determine the number and amount of awards based upon the total funds appropriated for this program. Grantees may not be awarded the full amount of requested funding.

Question 18: Can entities in border states apply? Three examples: Beloit, WI, St. Louis, MO, and Evansville, IN.

Answer: Yes, if they are proposing to serve Illinois students.

Question 19: Is it realistic to expect award notifications approx. 90 days after Oct 14th due date?

Answer: Please refer to page 3 of the FY 2026 After School Programs – Non-School Districts NOFO-RFP which states, it is anticipated that successful applicants will receive a Notice of Award via email approximately 90 days after the application deadline. The award letter is NOT an authorization to begin performance or expenditures. After the merit-based appeal timeframe has ended, awardees will receive additional information from the program area that includes next steps for finalizing the grant. Monies spent prior to programmatic approval are done so at the applicant's own risk.

Question 20: A number of Clubs asked us a Question about the link they shared in the RFP to use to find schools over that 90% eligibility - I just want to confirm that the "Eligibility Percentage" column is the info we should be looking at. If so, we have many schools that fall over that 90% threshold.

Answer: Yes, the “Eligibility Percent” column is where you should confirm a school’s Free and Reduced-Price Meal Eligibility Data.

Question 21: Are fees able to be collected for this grant? If so, is there a certain amount of time they will need to be spent by?

Answer: All expenditures must be reasonable and necessary to carry out the program’s purpose, goals, and objectives, and all funds must be spent in accordance with the State and Federal Grant Administration Policy, Fiscal Requirements, and Procedures handbook.

Question 22: In the complimentary PDF of the RFP, Section 3 of the Evaluation Rubric is sometimes referred to as “Capacity and Scope of Plan,” and in other locations as “Capacity and Sustainability.” Can you please clarify this?

Answer: The label “Capacity and Sustainability” is the correct title for Section 3 of the Evaluation Rubric. This has been corrected in the electronic RFP and the links to the complimentary PDF has been updated.
Entities who properly submitted an application prior to this change being made do NOT need to take any further action. Such applications remain valid.
All other items, including the specific criteria within Section 3 and their point values, remain unchanged.

Question 23: If a school district is awarded the FY2026 After School Programs – Non-School Districts grant, would they be eligible to apply for a future: 1.) 21st Century Community Learning Centers grant and/or 2.) FY2026 After School Programs – School Districts grant?

Answer: Please refer to page 1 of the FY 2026 After School Programs – Non-School Districts NOFO-RFP which states, entities that are not school districts or Local Education Agencies (LEAs) are eligible to apply. School districts may not apply for the FY2026 After School Programs – Non-School Districts grant opportunity.

Question 24: What is meant by a “site-based setting”? Do after-school programming activities need to be tied to a specific public school location?

Answer: “Site-based setting” refers to in-person programming that takes place at a consistent and specific location. It is not a requirement that programming take place within a school. Please refer to page 1 of the FY 2026 After School Programs – Non-School Districts RFP which states, each grantee must propose to serve a population of students that is at least 90% low-income.

Question 25: Can a site-based setting serve students from multiple schools? For example, if students from multiple public schools participate in after school activities at a separate facility, is this allowed?

Answer: Please refer to page 2 of the FY 2026 After School Programs – Non-School Districts RFP which states, there is no minimum number of students served requirement for this competition. Entities may serve students from multiple schools.

Question 26: In the Schools to be Served section of the application, we are asked to input the Region-County-District-Type-Site Code. For the Site Code of the schools where we are proposing to offer programming, I obtained the Site Code from the "Site Number" column of ISBE's FY25 Free and Reduced-Price Meal Eligibility Data. The Site Numbers from that data set are 5 digits, but I am only able to input a Site number in the IWAS system that is 4 digits long. Am I obtaining the Site Code from the wrong data source? If so, can you direct me as to where I can find correct Site Codes for school sites that are part of Chicago Public Schools?

Answer: In the RFP application, on the Schools to be Served page, The RCDTS (Region-County-District-Type-Schools) Code should be included for each school that you propose to serve. Please use this [RCDTS-Lookup](#) to find the appropriate code for each school.

Question 27: I need to give IWAS access to staff so they can review RFPs. How do I do that?

Answer: Please refer to page 12 of the [IWAS User Guide](#) for these steps.

Question 28: In the Schools to be Served section of the application, there is a required question on "Township". Should we enter "N/A" if our school site is located in the city of Chicago?

Answer: Yes, please enter "n/a" in the Township field if the school is not located in a township.

Question 29: If we are proposing to offer programming at three school sites, and one of the three sites has a summative designation of a comprehensive, targeted, or intensive school, will we receive priority points?

Answer: Please refer to page 12 of the FY 2026 After School Programs – Non-School Districts RFP which states, 5 priority points will be given to Comprehensive, Targeted, or Intensive Schools: These are programs that propose to serve schools that are identified as Comprehensive, Targeted, or Intensive.

Question 30: May we include letters of support from our school sites as supplemental attachments? If so, is there a location within IWAS where those supplemental attachments can be uploaded?

Answer: The FY 2026 After School Programs – Non School Districts RFP application does not provide a space for letters of support to be uploaded. Please refer to page 2 of the FY 2026 After School Programs – Non-School Districts NOFO-RFP which states, ISBE is required to design and execute a merit-based review and selection process for applications. This process is incorporated by reference in all applicable funding opportunities. Please review the [Merit Based Review Policy](#) for more information.

Question 31: Since we are applying for the FY2026 ASP Non-School Districts Grant opportunity with a deadline in October, can we access the IWAS system and work on the grant while waiting for the response of the ITA to come back?

Answer: There is no official confirmation sent to entities who have completed the Intent to Apply (ITA). Entities who have completed the ITA and have an RCDT Code should be able to access the FY 2026 After School Programs – Non-School Districts RFP in IWAS.

Question 32: One of the requirements of this grant is to work with schools that are not in districts, and the metric for that is the Free and Reduced-Priced Meal Eligibility Data. I am reviewing all the non-district data, and it seems that every public and non-public school is in a “district.”

***May you confirm that any non-public school is *not* in a district?**

Answer: This grant does not require entities to work with schools that are not in districts. The term “non-school districts” refers to the actual entities that propose to serve schools.

Question 33: The "program targets" section indicates that:

- 1. Fifty percent of students who are offered new or expanded programs show improved academic outcomes on the Microsoft form submitted by the grantee within 30 days of the end of each quarter.**

2. **Fifty percent of students who are offered opportunities for enrichment activities in a safe and healthy environment show increased academic engagement on the Microsoft form submitted by the grantee within 30 days of the end of each quarter.**
-In this context, do you mean 50% of students who participate in the after school program, or 50% of students who are invited to participate (meaning the entire school population)?
-How do you define “increased academic outcomes” and “increased academic engagement?” How are these different from each other, and what metrics are acceptable in this RFP?

Answer: The 50% of students is referring to students that participate in the After School Program. Increased academic outcomes refers to any increase in student academic data (grades, test scores, etc.). Increased academic engagement refers to any increase in numbers of participants (attendance).

Question 34: The “performance measures section” indicates that:

1. **One hundred percent of students are offered new or expanded programs that improve academic outcomes for students.**
2. **One hundred percent of students are offered opportunities for enrichment activities in a safe and healthy environment.**
-In this context, do you mean 100% of students who attend partner schools?

Answer: These measures are referring to the students in the After School Program.

Question 35: The “performance standards” section indicates:

1. **Sixty percent of students are offered new or expanded programs that improve academic outcomes for students.**
2. **Sixty percent of students are offered opportunities for enrichment activities in a safe and healthy environment.**
-In this context, do you mean 60% of students who participate in the after school program, or 60% of students who are invited to participate (meaning the entire school population)?
-Can you please distinguish between this section and the prior one? The text is exactly the same except for the percentages.

Answer: Please refer to page 1 of the [Uniform Grant Agreement Instructions](#). Performance measures are the highest level we want grantees to achieve. Performance standards are the minimum that we will allow grantees to go before remediation and/or possible termination.

Question 36: In the 'Schools to be Served' section, it allows 20 schools to be entered. Our program serves 28 schools. How do I add the additional 8 schools?

Answer: Please include those schools in your Narrative and Budget Pages. Please make a note in each section indicating that these 8 additional schools could not be added on the 'Schools to be Served' page. If you are awarded, ISBE programmers will amend that page to allow more schools to be added at that time to that section.