

Approved Recovery Schools
Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA)
Request for Applications (RFA)
Questions and Answers
April 18, 2025

Q1	RFA Application for Recovery Schools indicates that grant funds cannot extend beyond a maximum of 10 years (pg. 3). Wondering if that is because of current funding law and will be resolved legislatively OR if it is the intent of ODE to support for 10 years and then transition Recovery School programs to district budgets after the 10 year window?
A1	<p>The first IGA resulting from this RFA is a 5-year agreement. If the Approved Recovery School meets the requirements of the IGA, a 10-year IGA may be awarded upon renewal. Renewals of an Approved Recovery School shall be for a minimum of five years but may not exceed 10 years.</p> <p>It is the intent to renew the IGAs and continue funding the Approved Recovery Schools as described in ORS 336.680, ORS 327.029, and OAR 581-030-0220.</p>
Q2	<p>As we are writing the narratives [in our application re: budget and tentative plans]:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A) When do we need to disclose our reporting around budgets? B) When do we need to communicate sizable financial changes or changes on things like location, that have a huge impact on budget? C) Approval of budget or plan changes after the application process? D) Is this standard school reporting, integrated guidance reporting, or somewhere in the middle?
A2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A) Approved Recovery Schools shall submit a revised budget in accordance with the final awarded IGA. B) Approved Recovery Schools shall maintain a sound financial management system and provide regular financial reports or audits (RFA, Scope of Activities). If Applicants are considering a location change, this information shall be communicated to Agency immediately. A change in location must meet the requirements of the IGA. C) Each year, Approved Recovery Schools shall submit annual operating budgets and financial reports or audits that reflect quarterly revenue, expenditures and donations (RFA, Scope of Activities). D) Approved Recovery Schools shall not participate in the integrated guidance application and reporting; however, Approved Recovery Schools shall be responsible for submitting other applicable data collections and reports identified in Attachment A Sample IGA, Exhibit A.
Q3	Can districts/ESDs get reimbursement through the state transportation grant in this program?

A3	<p>Any transportation costs incurred by a school district for an Approved Recovery School shall be considered approved transportation costs for the purpose of ORS 327.013 in the same manner as transportation costs incurred by the school district for transporting students who attend other public schools are considered approved transportation costs for purpose of ORS 327.013. ESDs and public charter schools may contract with a school district for transportation services.</p> <p>See also A16.</p>
Q4	Can we apply for IDEA funds for these schools?
A4	Yes, Approved Recovery Schools may apply for IDEA funds through Agency as school district. The process that Approved Recovery Schools shall use is the same process used for school districts and ESDs.
Q5	Are there limits on other grants or support to this program outside of recovery school funding? Can we go to Wild Horse or other philanthropic organizations for additional funding? Are there different grant rules based on ESD, charter school or district applications?
A5	Approved Recovery Schools are allowed to apply for grants funded outside of Agency. There are no restrictions from Agency for school districts, ESDs or public charter schools on applying for outside of Agency grants.
Q6	What is the impact to scoring regarding the online vs in person instructional plans? Is use of online instruction for recovery schools allowable?
A6	<p>According to Attachment A Sample IGA, Exhibit A, Approved Recovery School shall operate a school that provides daily, onsite differentiated instruction and resources needed to address students' substance use and co-occurring behavioral health care needs.</p> <p>Additionally, evaluation items from the RFA include:</p> <p>“How well does the Applicant describe the instructional program and assessments, including any online or remote instructional classes and support offered?” and</p> <p>“How well does the Applicant describe the curriculum to be used with an explicit plan for fulfilling all graduation requirements to include credit recovery needs?”</p> <p>Applications will be scored accordingly.</p>
Q7	ESDs have certain limitations to do grants vs. charter schools vs. school districts. Are there different grant rules based on ESD, charter school or school district applications? For example, is an ESD limited in applying for other additional grants when compared to public charter versus school district?

A7	See A5.
Q8	Mental health staff are hard to come by in rural areas and there can be delays in hiring, potentially more than six months. Are we able to start or to continue to operate a recovery school while these staff are being hired or absent? We are specifically thinking about recovery mentors and mental health professionals.
A8	<p>Approved Recovery Schools are responsible for ensuring all services and staffing requirements in the IGA are met throughout the duration of the IGA. All requirements of the IGA, including the Exhibit A Statement of Work, must be met.</p> <p>An Approved Recovery School can contract or partner with various service providers to fill gaps when permanent staffing is not available. If there are staffing shortages, the Approved Recovery School shall work with Agency to develop an appropriate service plan. Approved Recovery Schools must proactively communicate with Agency's IGA Contract Administrator to ensure all components of the IGA are being implemented.</p>
Q9	If an application will have a large component of integration with a local provider in the community with recovery pieces, social workers, etc. and the program will be highly collaborative with the ESD, how do we spell out the clear delineation between a collaboration partner and the ESD? Also, how should we consider the budget sheet to clearly show this delineation?
A9	<p>Approved Recovery Schools awarded IGAs are responsible for all terms and Deliverables of the IGA. The Approved Recovery School can determine how they want to provide the services of the IGA, but the ultimate responsibility is on the Approved Recovery School.</p> <p>One option is to contract with other organizations, including substance use providers, recovery services, special education, mental health providers, etc. Applicants may document these relationships in the budget as "contract services," "in-kind services," or through a narrative within Attachment B Fillable Application and Certification "Section 4 – Community Support."</p>
Q10	5-year agreement "anticipated." How close are we on that "anticipated" and what is the process each of the 5-years for renewal? Is renewal at Year 5 accurate?
A10	See A1.
Q11	Is a delayed opening acceptable? Depending on the timeline that the contract is received and negotiated, how can the contract be reviewed or amended for a start date? How can a contract be amended for a later start date if required?

A11	<p>According to Attachment B Fillable Application and Certification “Start-Up Details,” Approved Recovery Schools must submit a timeline to allow for a 2025-2026 school year start.</p> <p>See RFA Section 5.3 Agreement Negotiation for full details regarding agreement negotiations.</p>
Q12	Does the RFA require board approval?
A12	Attachment B Fillable Application and Certification “Section 7 – Certification” requires a digital signature, printed name and date by a representative that certifies four criteria including certifying that the information submitted is true and correct. Applicant’s organization determines who is authorized to submit the information and sign the application.
Q13	[Regarding the RFA Section] 4.5 Next Step Determinations [and the Issuance of Notice of Award] “in May,” what is the likelihood determinations will be activated? Are these potential steps in ranked order?
A13	Agency reserves the right to invoke the options for additional rounds of competition listed under Section 4.5 Next Step Determination of the RFA if it is in the best interest of the State and cannot determine the likelihood of the need to do so at the time of the Questions and Answers document publishing. The additional rounds of competition in Section 4.5 are not listed in ranked order and may include additional rounds not limited to Presentations, Additional submittal items, Interview or On-Site Visit.
Q14	If ODE receives additional funds for recovery is a portion passed through to participating districts?
A14	No. Agency may receive the total amount of funding at the beginning of each biennium and may allocate funds according to OAR 581-030-4000, 581-030-4100, and 581-030-4200, and according to Attachment A Sample IGA. At the end of the biennium, if funds remain available, they may be dispersed to Approved Recovery Schools through an amendment.
Q15	For the application items that are attachments, are we to insert these as objects in the form or attach to the email via which we submit the form/application?
A15	All attachments shall be sent via email to the SPC identified on page 1 of the RFA along with Attachment B Fillable Application and Certification.

Q16	I've seen information about the transportation requirement being limited to students who reside within the attendance area of the district where the recovery school is located. If an ESD is operating the recovery school, is the area for required transportation the entire ESD service district, or the attendance area of the component district where the recovery school is physically located?
A16	The Approved Recovery School is responsible for transporting students who reside within the school district where the Approved Recovery School is located and are enrolled in the Approved Recovery School. See OAR 581-030-3000. See also A3 for more information regarding transportation.
Q17	Will there be 1, 2, 3 or no recovery schools funded in this cycle?
A17	HB 2767 (2023) allows Agency to establish up to three new Approved Recovery Schools in the 2025-27 biennium. The number of new Approved Recovery Schools to be established from this RFA is dependent on the 2025-27 Legislative Adopted Budget for Agency.
Q18	How far ahead of a student start date can staff be onboarded and funded for start-up efforts? How far in advance can staff be onboarded (and positions funded) prior to a student start date to be well prepared for the school year, including efforts to set up the new school location, classrooms and materials, engage in collaborative planning, and receive appropriate professional development?
A18	Approved Recovery Schools may begin activities that will be paid for with Approved Recovery Schools funds on the date that the IGA is fully executed, which means that it is signed by both parties. Funds will be available to the Approved Recovery School following the full execution of the IGA.
Q19	Does ODE have a preference for a particular geographical location for a recovery school?
A19	Approved Recovery Schools will be approved, to the greatest extent practicable, in a manner that represents a geographic distribution across the state of Oregon (ORS 336.680). Currently there are Approved Recovery Schools operating in Portland, Lake Oswego and Salem, Oregon.
Q20	For curriculum, is it acceptable to have a blend of in person learning as well as credit recovery and online options?
A20	Yes, for credit recovery, instruction may occur through online learning. See A6 for more information on a blend of in-person and online learning.
Q21	Is there a preference for the offering of CTE programs in the recovery school curriculum guide? Essentially are you looking for the inclusion of CTE programs and pathways?

A21	There is no preference for CTE programming in Approved Recovery Schools. The primary purpose of core content and credit-based instruction is to ensure credit accrual that leads to an Oregon Diploma in accordance with ORS 336.680.
Q22	When in May can we expect to know if we have been successful or not?
A22	While we aim to issue Notice of Award in May, we do not have a specific date at the time of the Question and Answers document publishing.
Q23	The RFA notes that an approved recovery school should open in the 2025-2026 school year. If the school's proposed start date is not in September of 2025, is that considered a delayed start date? If so, are there specific procedures, notifications, or pre-approvals needed?
A23	See A11.
Q24	With JDEP Programs, we all use a shared Synergy SIS under ODE for SpEd documentation. Will there be anything like this for RHS programs?
A24	Currently, Agency does not have plans to manage a Student Information System (“SIS”) like Synergy for Approved Recovery Schools.
Q25	[Applicants can submit] only 2 letters of support, correct (no more)? We have specific info that might be best shared in detail via web link (i.e. campus and residential program support planning for students). [May we submit information via web link(s)]?
A25	Correct, only two letters of support and no more. Web links are not accepted. If submitted with an Application, web links will be redacted by the SPC before the evaluation process begins and will not be evaluated.
Q26	The application is referencing more traditional high school accounts, 1131, for example. I believe it should be one of the functions listed below. [Can ODE advise?]

	<p>1272 Title 1A/D. Record Title 1A/D instructional activities here.</p> <p>1280 Alternative Education. Learning experiences for students who are at risk of dropping out of school; who are not succeeding in a regular classroom setting; or who may be more successful in a non-traditional setting. Includes instructional programs operated to meet the needs of at risk youth and students who have dropped out of school. Also includes enrichment programs for talented and gifted students provided in an alternative setting, such as university coursework. On-line curriculums would be coded here.</p> <p>1281 Public Alternative Programs. Alternative learning experiences provided by other public agencies, including community colleges, other school districts, education service districts, etc.</p> <p>1282 Private Alternative Programs. Alternative learning experiences provided by private contractors.</p> <p>1283-1287 District Alternative Programs. Alternative learning experiences provided by the school district.</p> <p>1288 Charter Schools. Expenditures related to an Oregon public charter school.</p> <p>1289 Other Alternative Programs. Other alternative learning experiences that cannot be classified above.</p> <p>1290 Designated Programs. Special learning experiences for other students with special needs; such as, English Language Learner students, teen parents and migrant education.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">56</p> <hr style="border: 2px solid black;"/> <p>1291 English Language Learner (ELL) – As per ORS 336.079, instructional activities for ELL students used in acquisition of the English language. Pro-rate duties as applicable. (For additional guidance, see Appendix E.)</p> <p>1292 Teen Parent Programs. Instructional programs designed to accommodate the needs of teen parents.</p> <p>1293 Migrant Education. Instructional programs designed to meet the needs of migrant students.</p> <p>1294 Youth Corrections Education. Instructional programs delivered to youth in detention.</p>
A26	Approved Recovery Schools are not alternative education schools. School accounting should reflect standard school accounting rules and use appropriate codes according to the Program Budgeting and Accounting Manual.