



Illinois State Board of Education

100 North First Street • Springfield, Illinois 62777-0001
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Darren Reisberg
Chairman

Dr. Carmen I. Ayala
State Superintendent of Education

TO: Schools Establishing Middle School Agricultural Education Programs in Illinois

FROM: Erica Thieman, Principal Consultant in Agricultural Education

DATE: March 29, 2019

SUBJECT: Memorandum of Understanding – Incentive Funding Grant for Agricultural Education

Congratulations on your decision to implement an approved middle school agricultural education program. The Incentive Funding Grant (IFG) for Agricultural Education is available to all eligible middle schools offering agriculture program in SFY20, \$5,000 is made available over a two-year period. After the second year of the program, the incentive funding allocation is calculated based on the number of quality indicators earned on the Incentive Funding Grant (IFG) application. The award of the IFG and total dollar amount is contingent on the availability of state funds. There are requirements to be met each year in order for eligibility to continue.

Eligibility requirements to receive the grant in any year

In order to be eligible to receive the \$2,500 grant, the following must be met:

- The agriculture teacher/FFA Advisor is licensed in Agriculture Education
- Courses in Agricultural Education are offered at the middle school/junior high level.
- Submission of a 3-year course offering plan (one time, initial requirement) that outlines offering each school year with all courses offered in any given year equaling a minimum of two credits. An approved sequence of courses being in place is an annual requirement.
- Charter or maintain an official FFA Chapter affiliated with the Illinois Association FFA and submit an FFA roster prior to the deadline set forth by the Illinois Association FFA OR be affiliated with an FFA Chapter in the same school district.
- The Middle School courses must be offered in a facility that is NOT shared with a Secondary Agriculture Program that is eligible for the IFG.
- If the Middle School teacher(s) also teach secondary agriculture courses, middle school must compose at least 50% of the teacher's responsibility.

Requirements in Year 1

To be eligible to receive the \$2,500 grant, the following must be met:

- Charter an official FFA chapter affiliated with the Illinois Association FFA and submit an FFA roster prior to the deadline OR be affiliated with an FFA Chapter in the same school district.
- The FFA Chapter participates in at least five Career Development Events (CDEs) and/or Leadership Development Events (LDEs) (See Attachment A).
- An IFG application must be completed prior to June 30th (Middle School Application in development to be released by January 1, 2020).

- While it is not a requirement, it is strongly recommended to develop a plan detailing how the district will reach at least 50% of the total X available on the application during year 2.

Requirements in Year 2

- The FFA chapter participates in at least five CDEs and/or LDEs (See Attachment A).
- An IFG application must be completed prior to June 30th, with at least 50% of the total X available earned.

I affirm that I have read and understand the requirements which must be met in order to receive the start-up funds for the Incentive Funding Grant. In addition, I affirm that we will meet the goals outlined in the three-year course offering plan. If any of the requirements are not satisfactorily met, we understand we will be ineligible for the grant and items purchased with grant funds will be relocated to other agriculture departments within the EFE System.

District/School Name

School Board President

Date

District Superintendent

Date

Principal

Date

Agriculture Teacher

Date

EFE System Director

Date

FCAE Program Advisor

Date

Attachment A

Career Development Events and Leadership Development Events

Agribusiness Management CDE
Agriculture Issues CDE
Agriculture Sales CDE
Agronomy CDE
Dairy Judging CDE
Dairy Foods CDE
Envirothon CDE
Floral Design CDE
Food Science CDE
Forestry CDE
Horse Judging CDE
Horticulture CDE
Job Interview CDE
Land Use CDE
Landscape Design CDE
Livestock Evaluation CDE
Meat Science CDE
Agriculture Mechanics CDE
Parliamentary Procedure CDE
Poultry Evaluation CDE
Public Speaking CDE
Quiz Bowl CDE
AgriScience Fair
SAE - Proficiency Award Interviews
Illinois FFA Convention
National FFA Convention
212 Leadership Conference
FFA Leadership Camp
Illinois Farm Bureau Youth Conference
Washington Leadership Conference
Agriculture Legislative Day
STAR Conference
Leadership Training School (LTS)
Greenhand Conference
Other local leadership developments activities such as a Chapter Banquet