

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Massachusetts School Building Authority

RFQ File Name/Title: Model School Program - Request for Qualifications to Provide Prototypical School Designs

RFQ Contact Person: Siobhan Tolman, Procurement Coordinator

Date: January 18, 2017

1. **Question:** Have there been any major changes to the Request for Qualifications since the Request for Qualifications last year?
Answer: The RFQ is nearly identical to the RFQ from last year with the exception of the timeline. The only substantial change is that MSBA asks that if you have submitted a project in the past, please do not submit the same project again.
2. **Question:** There were 20 submissions to the RFQ last year and 12 were approved as model schools. Did the other eight schools not meet the minimum requirements?
Answer: The eight schools that were not chosen either didn't meet the minimum requirements or were found to not be adaptable for subsequent use during the review process.
3. **Question:** Do respondents need to demonstrate how their building can accommodate different site selections?
Answer: Yes, to the extent required in the application form in the RFQ.
4. **Question:** Can respondents show by diagraming that the building can be adapted if, for example, the building is built on a sloping site?
Answer: Yes.
5. **Question:** Since the 12 schools were approved as model schools how many have been used by districts?
Answer: The models became available for use to districts in July 2016. None of the new models have been used yet but some districts have expressed interest.
6. **Question:** Do you think the reason none of the models have been used has to do with the program being new or the appeal of a model school to a district?
Answer: Since the approval of the 12 new models, districts that have been recently invited into the grant program have not yet reached the point in the program where they would have the option to select to use a model. The 12 new models have also been available for about six months.

7. **Question:** Since no Model schools have been selected what is the rationale to add to the list of approved model schools?

Answer: The more model schools that are available through the program the more likely a building will conform to a district's desired educational program, enrollment, and grade configuration. The idea is to have range of options for different grade configurations. Additionally, the more recent a model, the better it is in compliance with newer edition of the building codes.

8. **Question:** Does the MSBA have written examples of teaching methodologies?

Answer: The [MSBA website](#) has sample educational programs written by districts. These include examples for elementary, middle, and high schools. The science lab guidelines can be found on this page as well.