

**Life Science Education RFP
Project #11312
Questions & Answers
September 9, 2026**

In connection with the **Request for Proposals** relating to the **Life Sciences Education RFP released by NYCEDC on July 21, 2026**, the questions from potential respondents and answers provided by NYCEDC are below. Capitalized terms shall have the meaning set forth in the RFP unless otherwise defined in this Q&A document or the context otherwise requires.

General

1. **Is NYCEDC's August 5, 2026, RFP information session available as a recording?**
 - a. The presentation deck and registration list (for those seeking partnership opportunities) from the August 5, 2026, information session are posted on the RFP webpage: <https://edc.nyc/consultant-services-life-sciences-education-rfp>.
2. **Will NYCEDC share a list of the attendees from the August 5, 2026, RFP information session?**
 - a. The registration list from our information session on Wednesday, August 5, 2026, is posted on the RFP webpage: <https://edc.nyc/consultant-services-life-sciences-education-rfp>.
3. **Is there a confirmed start date for the Project?**
 - a. NYCEDC currently anticipates selecting its Operator in Q4 2026 with a Project start date sometime in Q1/Q2 2027.
4. **How many Operators does NYCEDC expect to select this Project?**
 - a. NYCEDC currently plans to select one respondent, however, NYCEDC reserves the right to select more than one at our discretion.
5. **Can two applicants apply together, with one as a subcontractor?**
 - a. NYCEDC currently plans to select one respondent but is open to joint responses.
6. **Does NYCEDC currently anticipate selecting one vendor to deliver the full program, or is there a preference for multiple vendors providing complementary programming?**
 - a. See answers to questions 4 and 5 above.
7. **How will NYCEDC contribute and participate in the Life Sciences Education RFP?**
 - a. NYCEDC will support and partner with the selected Operator in connecting with New York City Public Schools (NYCPS) and provide the funding for the program. Additionally, NYCEDC will work with the Operator to set up a regular cadence of meetings to check for progress on performance.

Policy Goals

8. **What are your top priorities for what this K-8 educational effort achieves over the next five years?**
 - a. The primary purpose of the Life Science Education RFP is to provide hands-on life and health sciences learning and career exposure to young members of the community in Kips Bay. Please refer to page 7 of the RFP under the Program Goals section to learn more.
9. **What experiences, mindsets, or technical skills do you most hope local Kips Bay students gain from this programming?**
 - a. The RFP identifies a few implementation goals to further the effort of developing new or scaling existing education opportunities that provide experiences for K-8 NYC public school students in the Kips Bay area, specifically: Skills Building, Career Awareness and Access, and Connection to Youth Employment Pathways or Programs. Please refer to page 7 of the RFP under the Program Goals section to learn more.
10. **How can we structure this program to deliver the greatest long-term value to local families and the broader neighborhood?**
 - a. The ideal outcome from these programs is to increase awareness of career opportunities in life and health sciences and encourage student commitment to pursuing life and health sciences careers. Please refer to page 7 of the RFP under the Program Goals section to learn more.
11. **Have any Life Sciences companies committed to moving to SPARC Kips Bay?**
 - a. NYCEDC anticipates that SPARC Kips Bay campus will open in 2031 or 2032 and there have been no commitments from companies to locate to SPARC at this time. This Life Sciences Education RFP is intended to generate activity and serve as a pipeline program before the SPARC Kips Bay campus is delivered. Once the campus is online and companies are located on the site, NYCEDC anticipates engagement between co-located companies and localized educational activities.
12. **Does the SPARC Kips Bay project intend to be similar to the startup and workforce development activity happening in the Brooklyn Army Terminal?**
 - a. SPARC Kips Bay is a job and education center that will serve as a life sciences, healthcare, and public health hub. The Master Plan, Education & Workforce Vision, and supporting documents are available at: edc.nyc/project/sparc-kips-bay.
13. **Will SPARC Kips Bay include a public school and will that be connected to the programs associated with this Life Sciences Education RFP?**
 - a. A public high school is planned for the SPARC Kips Bay campus. The Life Sciences Education RFP is designed to provide programs for grades K-8.

Scope of Services

14. Do we have to work with all 7 schools? Or can we work with a smaller subset of them?

- a. Respondents are expected to propose a program that works with all the target priority schools for all five years. If respondents are unable to work with all the schools at the beginning of the program, NYCEDC encourages respondents to outline how they can potentially scale their programs in the following years.

15. Will the Operator be paired with the schools, or do the relationships have to be pre-existing?

- a. We do not expect respondents to already have relationships with the target schools. We anticipate that the Operator will work closely with NYCEDC and New York City Public Schools to develop connections with the target schools during the pre-launch phase. Respondents are welcome to highlight pre-existing relationships and successful historical work with New York City Public Schools in their proposals.

16. What does connecting participants to a program like SYEP look like given that K-8 students might not be of age to apply for SYEP?

- a. Part of the intention in the RFP is to focus on strengthening awareness of career pathways in young people. NYCEDC welcomes respondents to propose new and creative methods to strengthen the relationship between their programs and future employment programs like SYEP. There is no requirement that participating students immediately go ahead to SYEP, for example, but the Respondent should include language on how they will facilitate connections to the next steps. This does not explicitly have to translate to a number of applications to SYEP.

17. Can we incorporate field trips to locations that are not in Kips Bay?

- a. We welcome respondents to propose programming that leans on their core strengths. NYCEDC and New York City Public Schools will evaluate a program's alignment and feasibility of execution. Once an Operator is selected, the program development will be informed by discussions with New York City Public Schools.

18. Is it possible to consult with the public schools mentioned in the RFP before submitting a response? Is NYCEDC in contact with these schools?

- a. NYCEDC has developed this RFP in partnership with NYC Public Schools. Respondents should refrain from contacting individual schools directly, as NYCEDC will support and partner with the Operator in connecting to New York City Public Schools once awarded.

19. Is any connection to Office of Student Pathways needed or is this solely through the superintendent of the district?

- a. NYCEDC anticipates that any conversation with other parts of New York City Public Schools will go through the superintendent of the district.
- 20. The RFP asks the Operator to conduct Community Outreach and Marketing on behalf of the project. What is the purpose of these tasks, given that targeted students are already at the participating schools?**
- a. NYCEDC anticipates that community outreach and marketing will help the program reach a diverse group of K-8 students in the Kips Bay neighborhood, create excitement around the impact on the local community, and generate positive publicity for the program, NYCEDC, and for the City of New York. Specific tasks are detailed in the RFP under the “Scope of Services” section.
- 21. Is there a preference for respondents to propose school-day programs, after-school programs, or both? Would it be helpful to explain both program plans?**
- a. NYCEDC anticipates that there will be interest for both. In either case, the program should fit into what is possible within the NYCPs environment. Respondents are welcome to include more details on both options in the Appendix to demonstrate breadth of ability, but NYCEDC would prefer to have a recommendation of which program (school-day or after-school) would have the most impact. Please view the full selection criteria in the RFP under the “Selection Criteria” section.
- 22. Teachers are often paid a per-session rate for work completed outside of work hours. Will New York City Public Schools pay for per-session work, or should respondents incorporate this into proposed budgets? If so, what is the per-session rate?**
- a. While it is possible that this could change after further discussion with New York City Public Schools, respondents should assume that all costs are part of the Operators budget and should be reflected in respondents budget submission.
- 23. Can we reach out to SYEP to align regarding preparation for 8th graders?**
- a. Respondents should refrain from contacting SYEP at this stage, as NYCEDC will support and partner with the Operator in connecting to SYEP once awarded.
- 24. Can we use school devices for the program (6th-8th grade)? For browser-based research activities and word processing?**
- a. We welcome respondents to propose programming that leans on their core strengths. NYCEDC and New York City Public Schools will evaluate a program’s alignment and feasibility of execution. Once an Operator is selected, the program development will be informed by discussions with New York City Public Schools.
- 25. Is there a minimum or target number of students NYCEDC expects the selected vendor(s) to serve annually or over the five-year period?**
- a. NYCEDC is looking for the Operator to serve as many of the target number of students as possible, which is approximately 1,900 primary school and approximately 3,200 middle school students annually.

26. Regarding the goal of connecting students with life and health sciences employers, are respondents expected to bring established employer partnerships to the proposal, or will NYCEDC assist the selected vendor(s) in developing connections with SPARC Kips Bay and other industry partners?

- a. NYCEDC welcomes respondents to highlight established employer partnerships in their proposal. Once the SPARC Kips Bay campus is online and companies are located on the site, NYCEDC anticipates engagement between co-located companies and localized educational activities.

Budget

27. What is the budget or budget range for the Project?

- a. Respondents are expected to propose a program that can be achieved for a budget of \$100,000 per year for five years. NYCEDC is seeking competitive proposals that can accomplish the goals and objectives of the Program within the budget.

Contracting

28. Should respondents assume the selected vendor will receive a five-year contract and funding commitment, or will funding and continuation be subject to annual performance reviews, appropriations, or contract renewals?

- a. Respondents should propose a five-year program that assumes a five-year funding commitment. Regardless of the term of the contract, the selected Operator will be subject to annual performance reviews.