**Long Island Sound Schools Application Rubric**

|  | ***Exemplary*** | ***Very Good*** | ***Good*** | ***Needs Improvement*** |
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| **Objectives and Measures** | Project objectives are clear, measurable, and achievable. Measures will thoroughly assess progress toward objectives. | Project objectives are clear, measurable, and achievable. Measures are aligned to objectives. | Project objectives and measures are clear but are not well-aligned or achievable. | Project objectives and measures are unclear or inappropriate. |
| **Project Overview** | Clearly and thoroughly describes the project including specifics about which students will be involved and what activities they will enact. Plan engages students in hands-on and field-based activities to learn about Long Island Sound. | Describes specifics about student involvement and activities they will enact. Plan engages students in hands-on and field-based activities to learn about Long Island Sound. | Discusses student involvement and activities. | Project description is vague or does not involve hands-on and field-based activities for students. |
| **Ocean Literacy and Connection to Long Island Sound** | Clearly and thoroughly describes specifically how activities will improve ocean literacy in the school community, as well as the school’s connection to Long Island Sound. | Specifically describes how activities will improve ocean literacy in the school community, as well as the school’s connection to Long Island Sound. | Discusses how activities will improve ocean literacy in the school community, as well as the school’s connection to Long Island Sound. | It is unclear how activities will improve ocean literacy and the connection to Long Island Sound. |
| **Healthy Long Island Sound** | Clearly and thoroughly describes how project activities will lead to a healthier Long Island Sound. | Specifically describes how project activities will lead to a healthier Long Island Sound. | Discusses how project activities will lead to a healthier Long Island Sound. | It is unclear how project activities will lead to a healthier Long Island Sound. |
| **Action Project** | Clearly and thoroughly  describes how students will  engage in a specific, relevant,  and impactful action project. | Specifically describes how  students will engage in a  relevant action project. | Briefly describes the action  project students will engage  in. | The action project is unclear. |
| **Partnerships** | Plan identifies specific possible partners and discusses the potential role(s) they can play to further the project. | Identifies possible partners and discusses the role(s) they can play to further the project. | Identifies possible partners. | Plan does not identify potential partners. |
| **Communication Strategies** | Clearly and thoroughly describes multiple communication strategies and audiences to be engaged. | Describes multiple communication strategies and audiences to be engaged. | Discusses communication strategies and audiences to be engaged. | Communication strategies are vague or do not extend beyond the school community. |
| **Budget** | Budget is clear and specific.  Budget items are well-  justified and are tightly  aligned to proposed activities. | Budget is clear. Budget is  justified and aligned to  proposed activities. | Budget is somewhat clear and  aligned to proposed activities.  Budget is unclear or not  aligned to proposed activities. | Budget is unclear or not  aligned to proposed activities. |
| **Benefits to School Community** | Clearly and thoroughly describes specific ways the school community will benefit from being a Long Island Sound School. | Describes specific ways the school community will benefit from being a Long Island Sound School. | Identifies ways the school community will benefit from being a Long Island Sound School. | Benefits to the school community are vague. |
| **High-needs school** |  |  | School is designated as a high-needs school. | School is not designated as a high-needs school. |