Section I - Applicant Information

- Legal name of applicant organization: YESHIVA GEDOLAH RABBINICAL INSTITUTE OF NEW ENGLAND, INC
- Doing business as (if different): YESHIVAS BEIS DOVID SHLOMO, THE CHEDER NEW HAVEN
- Street address: 342 ELLSWORTH AVENUE
- City, State, ZIP: NEW HAVEN, CT 06511
- Mailing address (if different): 14 FARWELL STREET, WEST HAVEN, CT 06511
- Connecticut Secretary of the State business ID / registration number: 0061759
- Federal Employer Identification Number (EIN): 06-0943492
- Organization type: Nonprofit 501(c)(3) private school
- Primary contact name and title: CHAYA MALKA, ADMINISTRATOR
- Primary contact email: YBDS@YBDSNEWHAVEN.ORG
- Primary contact phone: 203-776-9237
- Alternate contact name and title: YASEF DEITSCH, PRESIDENT

Section II - Grant Type and Eligibility

- Grant type requested: **ETI Grant** (Educational Technology Investment)
- Applicant category (check one):
- [ ] Board of Education
- [ ] Public library
- [X] **Other education entity**
- Entity description: YESHIVA GEDOLAH RABBINICAL INSTITUTE OF NEW ENGLAND, INC is a nonprofit private Jewish day school serving students in grades 1st through 12th Grades in New Haven, Connecticut. The school is registered with the Connecticut Secretary of the State and is current on all state filing obligations.
- Has the organization received a PEGPETIA grant in a prior cycle? No

Section III - Project Description

Q12. Description of the education technology initiative and expected enhancements

YESHIVA GEDOLAH RABBINICAL INSTITUTE OF NEW ENGLAND, INC requests ETI funding to establish a virtual reality STEM learning station built on the Nivra

platform: a set of 12 educationally safe VR headsets loaded with immersive science and technology content, deployed as a rotating station in our LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER.
The headsets run a locked-down educational operating system designed for school use. There is no open web browsing, no social media, and no in-app purchasing. Teachers select the experience, and students work inside a supervised, curriculum-aligned environment.

The initiative is entirely a STEM project. The Nivra STEM library lets students explore science and technology from inside the subject instead of from a textbook page: immersive science exploration, virtual field trips to places a school bus cannot reach, and experiences that build spatial reasoning and technical literacy, meaning the ability to navigate, observe, and reason inside digital 3D environments. Younger students (grades 1-4) use guided, hands-free experiences narrated step by step, while older students use fully interactive experiences that require observation, decision-making, and problem-solving.

Expected enhancements:

- A dedicated STEM station that every class can rotate through on a published schedule, rather than one-off technology demonstrations.
- Hands-on science exploration for students who learn best by doing and seeing, including students who struggle with text-heavy instruction.
- Virtual field trip capacity that removes cost and distance barriers for our families.
- Teacher-led, screen-time-controlled technology use: sessions are short, supervised, and tied to lesson objectives.

Q13. Geographic area and school systems benefiting

The project will be located at YESHIVA GEDOLAH RABBINICAL INSTITUTE OF NEW ENGLAND, INC 342 Ellsworth Avenue, New Haven, Connecticut. Our students reside in New Haven. All benefits of the initiative accrue to students enrolled at the school; no other school system is required to participate, and visiting classes [none planned in the initial year] may be hosted at the school's discretion.

Q14. Number of students impacted

- Total enrollment: 241
- Students who will use the STEM station in the project year: 241 in grades Pre-K through 12th grades.
- Estimated station sessions per week: 15

- Estimated student uses in the first project year: 241 students, each rotating through the station approximately 25 times per year

Section IV - Implementation and Evaluation

Q15. Implementation schedule with milestones

Awards disburse starting June 2027. All milestones fall inside the project window of June 2027 through May 2028.

- **June - July 2027:** Grant funds received. Order placed with the vendor using the attached quote. Delivery of 12 headsets and activation of the 12-device school-year software and content license.
- **August 2027:** Station set up in designated room. Teacher orientation completed. Class rotation schedule published.
- **September 2027:** Student launch. First classroom rotations begin, aligned to fall science units.
- **October 2027 - April 2028:** Full operation. Weekly rotations for all participating grades, virtual field trip sessions each term, and mid-year teacher review in January 2028 to adjust scheduling and content selection.
- **May 2028:** Project evaluation completed and PEGPETIA compliance report filed, accounting for the use of all grant funds.

Q16. Objective performance measures

The school will measure and report the following in its May 2028 compliance filing:

1. **Reach:** number of students who used the station, by grade, against the Q14 projection.
2. **Usage:** total station sessions delivered and average sessions per participating class per month, from the rotation schedule log.
3. **Curriculum integration:** number of science or STEM units in which a Nivra VR experience was used as a planned lesson component, documented in teacher lesson plans.
4. **Teacher assessment:** end-of-year teacher survey rating student engagement and comprehension for VR-supported units on a 1 to 5 scale, with a target average of 4 or higher.
5. **Financial accountability:** receipts and purchase orders for all equipment purchased with grant funds, reconciled to the itemized budget.

Section V - Organization Background

Q17. Description of the organization and its experience and competence

for this project

Yeshiva Gedolah Rabbinical Institute of New Enlgand is a nonprofit Jewish day school founded in 1976, serving 241 students in grades Pre-K-12th Grade in New Haven, Connecticut. Our dual curriculum combines rigorous general studies, alongside Judaic studies, we are looking to enhance our STEM program in science, coding, and robotics, which this program will fulfill.

The school is governed by a volunteer board of directors and led by Yasef Deitsch, President, with day-to-day project oversight by Rochel Lustig, Assistant Principal. Mrs. Lustig will manage the station schedule, teacher orientation, and compliance reporting.

The school's current classroom technology consists of interactive smart boards in its classrooms; the school has no student devices or immersive technology at this time. This project establishes the school's first dedicated STEM technology station. It requires no construction or new infrastructure: the headsets are standalone devices that use the school's existing Wi-Fi for setup and content updates, and the classroom space, supervising staff, and class schedule are already in place. The vendor, UVR Holdings Inc, provides setup documentation and teacher orientation materials with the equipment, and the platform is already in use in approximately 100 schools.

VI - Budget Summary and Certifications

Q18. Partner organizations and other funding sources

- Partner organizations: None required for this project. The equipment vendor is UVR Holdings Inc.
- Other funding sources: Yeshiva Gedolah Rabbinical Institute of New Enlgand, will fund any project costs above the grant award from its operating budget, including replacement consumables and any additional headsets purchased after the grant period. No other grant funds are committed to this project. Total project cost (full version): $11,868
- Amount requested from PEGPETIA: $11,868
- Scaled-down version, if PURA caps the award: $5,934 (6 headsets; see itemized budget). The project remains fully functional at the scaled-down size.

Q20. Supporting documentation

The vendor quote from UVR Holdings Inc is attached and itemizes each item to be purchased, with quantities and unit prices, as required. Printed documentation is attached to the filing; no website links are relied upon.

Q21. Non-equipment costs

This request contains **no non-equipment costs**. Every line is equipment: VR headsets, and the Nivra STEM software and content license, which the program guidance permits to be categorized as equipment ("Software may be categorized as equipment"). No salaries, service agreements, or stipends are requested. Non-equipment costs are therefore $0, which is under the 10 percent limit.

Certification

The undersigned certifies that the information in this application is true and complete, that the project has not been completed and will be carried out during the June 2027 to May 2028 project period if funded, and that the organization will file a compliance report accounting for the use of all funds received by May 2028.

- Authorized signature: 
- Printed name and title: Chaya Malka, Administrator
- Date: 11/18/2026
