



Innovation in K-8 Mathematics and/or K-12 Computer Science/Coding Professional Learning Grants

**ANNOUNCEMENT
AND APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS**

FY16



**Innovation in K-8 Mathematics and/or K-12 Computer
Science/Coding Professional Learning Grants**

RFP Release Date:

September 29, 2015

Deadline for Proposal Submission:

November 10, 2015

Contact Person:

Stacey Lutz
Governor's Office Student Achievement
205 Jesse Hill, Jr. Drive SE
952 Twin Towers East
Atlanta, GA 30334
stacey.lutz@georgia.gov

Award Notification:

December 10, 2015

Awarding Agency:

Governor's Office of Student Achievement

INTRODUCTION

The Innovation in K-8 Mathematics and/or K-12 Computer Science/Coding Professional Learning Grant is open to Georgia school systems or individual public schools serving Georgia students, and Regional Education Service Agencies (RESAs) or Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs) in partnership with an LEA or particular schools within an LEA. This grant opportunity is geared toward creating and scaling innovative and effective professional learning models for K-8 mathematics and/or K-12 Computer Science/coding educators that are designed to increase student achievement in those areas. Applicants should craft proposals that support the development and implementation of engaging, technology-enabled learning experiences, design tools, or other innovative products that directly support maximizing K-8 or K-12 teachers' instructional practice in mathematics and/or Computer Science/coding. Additionally, these professional learning plans should focus on innovative ways to increase the number and quality of application-based models that incorporate skills in coding and programming into mathematics and science classrooms or which foster other application-based, authentic learning opportunities for students. Awarded grant recipients will receive grants ranging from \$50,000 to \$150,000.

APPLICATION DETAILS

ELIGIBILITY

The Innovation in K-8 Mathematics and/or K-12 Computer Science/Coding Professional Learning Grant is an 18-month grant program for Georgia public schools serving students in kindergarten through eighth grades in mathematics and/or kindergarten through twelfth grades in Computer Science/coding. Charter schools, as public schools, **are** eligible to apply. RESAs and IHEs in partnership with a school or schools serving Georgia public school students in the grades identified above are also eligible to apply.

SCORING

All applications will be scored on a 100-point scale using a rubric-based scoring system. A brief description of the required components follows as well as materials to support grant development. Applicants are encouraged to use the available materials to prepare successful grant applications.

PROGRAM PERIOD

The Innovation in K-8 Mathematics and/or K-12 Computer Science/Coding Professional Learning Grant is an 18-month, state-funded program that will begin January 1, 2016. Awarded grant

applications will use the first semester of the grant to design, develop and begin providing professional learning, and participating schools will fully implement and monitor the professional learning provided by the program in school year 2016-2017.

SUBMISSION

All applications for the Innovation in K-8 Mathematics and/or K-12 Computer Science/Coding Professional Learning Grant must be submitted via mail. GOSA will not accept applications submitted in any other format (email, etc.) or applications that are postmarked after the submission deadline (November 10, 2015).

Mail the application to:

Governor's Office of Student Achievement
Attention: Stacey Lutz
205 Jesse Hill, Jr. Drive SE
952 Twin Towers East
Atlanta, GA 30334

DISQUALIFICATION FACTORS

Any application received after the deadline will be regarded as late and will not be considered. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure the proposal is postmarked by the specified deadline. Additionally, GOSA will not consider funding any applicant who fails to comply with all application requirements. Disqualification factors include any of the following:

- Failure to address and meet all required content; and/or
- Failure to include application narrative and application attachments; and/or
- Failure to provide appropriate number of copies and format requested.

QUESTIONS

GOSA will post a recorded technical assistance webinar on the GOSA website to answer questions from potential applicants no later than September 29, 2015. Potential applicants are strongly encouraged to view the webinar. Other questions may be directed to Stacey Lutz (stacey.lutz@georgia.gov). Though questions will be permitted until the date of the application submission, they will be answered subject to staff availability. As such, applicants are strongly encouraged to pose all questions as early as possible.

**Innovation in K-8 Mathematics and/or K-12 Computer
Science/Coding Professional Learning Grant Application**

Cover Sheet

SECTION 1: APPLICANT INFORMATION

Applicant Name: _____

School System Name and Address: _____

School System Superintendent Name: _____

Grant Application Contact Name: _____

Grant Application Contact Position: _____

Grant Application Contact Email Address: _____

Grant Application Contact Phone Number: _____

SECTION 2: AUTHORIZING SIGNATURES

I, the undersigned, have read, understand, and agree to all relative conditions specified in the Request for Proposals and having read all attachments thereto do submit this application. If awarded a grant to implement the provision herein, I do certify that all applicable federal and state laws, rules, and regulations thereto will be followed.

Applicant Signature:

Signature Date

District Superintendent Signature:

Signature Date

School Principal Signature:

Signature Date

District/School Principal Signature¹:

Signature Date

District/School Principal Signature²:

Signature Date

District/School Principal Signature³:

Signature Date

¹ If serving multiple schools or districts.

² If serving multiple schools or districts.

³ If serving multiple schools or districts.

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Required Application Order:

1. Application Cover Sheet (provided)

Signed by all prospective parties

2. Proposal Narrative including the following:

- Executive Summary (300 words or less)
- Need for Initiative (500 words or less)
- Goals (500 words or less)
- Action Plan (1000 words or less)
- Budget
 - The **Innovation in K-8 Mathematics and/or K-12 Computer Science/Coding Budget Template** is required.
 - Additional narrative explanation is also required.
- Capacity (500 words or less)
- Evaluation and Sustainability Plan (300 words or less)

3. Appendix Attachments

The following documents are provided to support the planning process for applicants. They are not required with grant application, but may be included as additional support:

- **Innovation in K-8 Mathematics and/or K-12 Computer Science/Coding Evidence of Need Template**
- **Innovation in K-8 Mathematics and/or K-12 Computer Science/Coding Grant Goals and Outcomes Template**
- **Innovation in K-8 Mathematics and/or K-12 Computer Science/Coding Scope of Work Template**

4. Electronic Attachments

CD or USB drive required with the following files

- pdf of the application (required)
- budget template (required)
- supporting documents (optional)

Application Format:

- Number every page submitted as part of your application
- Use 12-point Times New Roman Font
- Space proposal at 1.5 lines
- Use 1 inch margins throughout application
- Use white paper that is 8.5 x 11 inches
- Do not exceed word limits
- Do not staple applications; use paper clips
- Structure the application in order defined in Application Checklist

Proposal Application
Please provide the following information.

Executive Summary (10 points)

The executive summary should provide a brief overview of your proposal (300 words or less). In your summary, please include your theory of change, the grades and number of teachers you intend to serve, and your goals and intended outcomes. Intended outcomes must include specific student growth and/or performance targets that are anticipated to result from effective classroom implementation of the professional learning. You will have an opportunity to more fully explain each of these topics in the sections that follow.

Need for Initiative (15 points)

This section should outline your school or district's specific needs in the area targeted by the grant proposal. Your response should address the types of questions listed below, but these are provided for guidance, and they are not exhaustive. There may be other reasons that support the need for additional professional learning in addition to those listed here. The specific needs of your school(s) or district should drive your approach to this grant. Some applications may focus only on K-8 mathematics, some may focus only on K-12 Computer Science/coding, and some take an integrated instructional approach to the curricula. Be sure to discuss the data or evidence that suggest that there is a need to engage your teachers in professional learning to enhance mathematics and/or Computer Science/coding. Responses to this section should include both an identified area of need for professional learning support for teachers of mathematics and/or Computer Science/coding and data or evidence that establishes that need (not to exceed 500 words).

Computer Science/coding

What is the availability of Computer Science/coding courses in your school(s) that incorporate coding and programming skills? What is the current capacity to offer Computer Science/coding courses that include authentic opportunities for students to learn and apply coding and programming

skills? How will this program enable teachers to better integrate Computer Science/coding principles and curricula into mathematics and science courses?

Mathematics

How does student achievement in mathematics at your school(s) differ from students in other schools across the region and/or state? What are the instructional challenges that teachers and/or leaders have identified in mathematics in your school(s)? How will this program enable teachers to better provide high quality mathematics instruction?

Integrated

To what extent are Computer Science/coding principles integrated into mathematics instruction?

How could an integrated instructional approach increase the authenticity of learning experiences for students? How could core training of mathematics teachers in Computer Science/coding principles help them incorporate coding and other technical skills into academic course work? How can an integrated instructional approach increase non-traditional STEM students' interest in and exposure to STEM areas and careers?

***You may wish to use the provided template, **Innovation in K-8 Mathematics and/or K-12 Computer Science/Coding Professional Learning Evidence of Need Template**, for planning support of this section.*

Goals (15 points)

This part of the narrative should outline the outcomes you hope to see as a result of professional learning. What do you want to accomplish with the grant? As a result of receiving grant funding, what specific changes do you anticipate seeing in adult behaviors that will directly influence student success in the identified area of need? Be specific in identifying the possible changes and the timeline for those changes. You must identify 3-5 specific goals for this project. Please list these as SMART (Specific, Measurable, Ambitious, Realistic, and Time-bound) goals. The narrative should include the SMART goals, a brief explanation of action steps to achieving those goals,

tangible expected outcomes, and indicators of successful attainment of those goals (not to exceed 500 words). Intended goals and outcomes must also include specific student growth and/or performance targets that are anticipated to result from effective classroom implementation of the professional learning.

*****You may want to use the provided template, **Innovation in K-8 Mathematics and/or K-12 Computer Science/Coding Goals and Outcomes Chart Template**, as a support for this section.***

Action Plan for Initiative (15 points)

In the previous section, you identified action steps associated with your identified goals. Please expand on those and clearly outline the actions that will lead to successful implementation of your proposal. Your response to this section should address the questions that follow: What specific actions will you take to accomplish your goal(s)? What research informed your decisions? What professional learning will be provided to teachers and/or leaders, and when will it be conducted? How will the implementation of that professional learning be monitored and evaluated? How will teachers and school leaders be involved in reaching the goals of the project? The narrative for this section should not exceed 1000 words.

*****You may want to use the template, **Innovation in K-8 Mathematics and/or K-12 Computer Science/Coding Scope of Work Template**, as supporting documentation for this section.***

Budget Template and Budget Narrative (20 points)

For this section, you *must* complete both the budget template, **Innovation in K-8 Mathematics and/or K-12 Computer Science/Coding Budget Template** (separate Excel spreadsheet) *and* provide a narrative explanation of your budget plan. Make sure to provide descriptions and assumptions for all cost categories. In addition, please note any other funding that may support this work (e.g. in-kind contributions, etc.) that you have as appendices to this application. The budget narrative should be a brief summary of and rationale for the budget expenditures detailed in the budget template. The narrative should be no more than one page in length and may include

appropriate charts or graphics.

Capacity (15 points)

Please provide a description and evidence that the grant project personnel and any prospective professional learning partners demonstrate a record of having successfully completed (including project evaluations) similar or related projects. If this is the first grant of this type that you are applying for, provide evidence to support that personnel included in this grant have the time and experience to successfully implement the proposal, and/or provide evidence of their experience in implementing programs that reached their intended outcomes. Please include resumes and letters of intent from prospective partners (500 words or less not including supporting documentation).

Evaluation and Sustainability (10 points)

Please provide a short narrative describing how the school and/or school system will evaluate the progress of the initiative. Please describe both the evaluation timeline and who will conduct the evaluation. Please describe how the school and/or school system plans to sustain and scale emerging best practices (300 words or less).

Appendix

Throughout the application packet, several documents have been referenced that may support the planning process. Although these documents will not be scored, they may prove useful to the planning process, and they may provide application reviewers insight into the development of your proposal. If you are including one or more of these files for review, you must reference it in the narrative of the application.

- **Innovation in K-8 Mathematics and/or K-12 Computer Science/Coding Evidence of Need Template**
- **Innovation in K-8 Mathematics and/or K-12 Computer Science/Coding Grant Goals and Outcomes Template**
- **Innovation in K-8 Mathematics and/or K-12 Computer Science/Coding Scope of Work Template**