



## THE DISCOVER, DESIGN, DEVELOP (D3) SCHOOLS PROJECT GRANT GUIDELINES

*Powered by the Innovation Fund Accelerator*

*Fiscal Year 2018*

### ABOUT THE D3 SCHOOLS PROJECT

#### WHAT IS THE D3 SCHOOLS PROJECT?

The Discover, Design, Develop (D3) Schools Project is a grant opportunity for schools and school districts which targets schools on the Turnaround Eligible List, as well as high-need, rural schools and districts, to effectively address their most pressing challenges. This opportunity will provide schools and districts the necessary time to deeply understand their challenges, identify the underlying causes that prevent students from achieving academic success, and determine which problem(s) to solve first.

The D3 Schools Project will take grantees through a one-year strategic Governor's Office of Student Achievement (GOSA)-facilitated planning process which includes professional learning sessions, site visits, field trips, and in-between assignments. During the process, grantees will create a program or project that effectively targets their school or district's most urgent need. Specifically, each participating team will conduct a thorough assessment of their school/district, collect and analyze qualitative and quantitative data to **discover** their most pressing challenges, **design** a program to address these challenges, and **develop** a feasible, measurable plan to pilot their program.

#### WHAT WILL SELECTED SCHOOLS AND DISTRICTS RECEIVE?

- **Grant Funding:** Selected schools and districts will receive an \$8,000 grant. This grant will cover expenses directly related to the D3 Schools Project planning process including: travel to and from sessions, parking, per diem to cover the cost of food on session days, stipends for participating staff, and substitutes.
- **Support and Coaching:** The Governor's Office of Student Achievement will provide ongoing support and coaching to all schools and districts participating in the D3 Schools Project planning process.
- **Opportunity to Apply for Pilot Funding:** Schools and districts that successfully complete the D3 Schools Project planning process can apply for up to \$20,000 to pilot the program they developed. This pilot will occur during the 2019-2020 school year.



## WHAT ARE THE D3 SCHOOLS PROJECT PRIORITY AREAS?

The D3 Schools Project will invest in schools and districts addressing challenges and developing programs in the following priority areas:

### **Birth to Age Eight Language and Literacy** programs:

- Provide children, birth to age eight, with access to language-rich child and adult interactions both inside and outside of school;
- Provide children with rigorous, evidence-based instruction aimed to ensure that, by 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, students are active consumers and critical thinkers of written texts; and
- Leverage strategic partnerships with social service and community agencies, non-profit organizations, parents, and families to address children's learning, health, and social-emotional needs.

### **Coordinated Community Services** programs:

- Leverage strategic partnerships with social service agencies, nonprofit organizations, healthcare providers, and other community agencies to support students' nonacademic needs, including their physical, emotional, social, and psychological needs; and
- Ultimately improve school climate and student achievement by supporting students' nonacademic needs.

### **Elementary Mathematics Teaching and Learning** programs:

- Provide professional development, support, and/or mentoring for potential, new, and veteran elementary school teachers that focuses on evidenced-based strategies to teach math; and
- Improve elementary mathematics achievement by providing students with a hands-on, evidence-based, standards-aligned, rigorous mathematics curriculum.

### **Positive Learning Climate** programs:

- Meet students' academic and social-emotional needs;
- Create a rigorous environment for teaching and learning that supports student success both in school and beyond (college, career, etc.);
- Hold students, teachers, and leaders to high standards and provide support in reaching those standards;
- Foster a positive environment where leaders, teachers, and students use mistakes and challenges as learning opportunities, celebrate successes, and are empowered as change agents.



### **IF SELECTED FOR THE D3 SCHOOLS PROJECT, WHO FROM MY SCHOOL OR DISTRICT WILL NEED TO PARTICIPATE?**

Each participating school or district must bring a team of five to eight individuals to each D3 Schools Project session. This team will also be responsible for leading the planning process in between sessions. At a minimum, this team **MUST** include:

- District Staff Member with *decision making power, meaning that this person directly supervises principals or other school administrators,*
- School Board Member or Charter School Board Member,
- School Principal,
- 1 Teacher/Teacher Leader (instructional coach, etc.),
- 1 Parent or Community Member, and
- Student Designee (**required for middle and high school applicants only, as well as district applicants that will focus on middle or high school**). *Please note, this student does not have to attend sessions. However, this student will be involved throughout the D3 Schools Project planning process by: (a) providing student insight into the challenges your school/district is facing, and (b) generating and/or providing feedback on possible ideas to address those challenges.*



### WHEN AND WHERE WILL THE D3 SCHOOLS PROJECT SESSIONS OCCUR?

The tentative schedule for the D3 Schools Project sessions is below. **Please note this schedule is subject to change.** Unless otherwise specified, all D3 School Project sessions will take place in metro Atlanta. **Attendance at sessions is mandatory. Teams that do not send at least five individuals to each session will not be eligible to apply for pilot funding.**

DATE AND TIME	PROFESSIONAL LEARNING SESSION
<b>August 16, 2018</b> <i>2:30 PM – 3:30 PM</i>	<b>What's Your Current Reality?</b>
<b>September 20, 2018</b> <i>10:00 AM – 3:00 PM</i>	<b>So, What's the Problem?</b>
<b>October 18, 2018</b> <i>10:00 AM – 3:00 PM</i>	<b>How Do You Define School Success?</b>
<b>November 15, 2018</b> <i>10:00 AM – 4:00 PM</i>	<b>Let's Focus on the Adult</b>
<b>January 24, 2019</b> <i>10:00 AM – 3:00 PM</i>	<b>Changing Your Schools Landscape</b>
<b>February 21, 2019</b> <i>10:00 AM – 3:00 PM</i>	<b>Working Together: The Partnership Approach</b>
<b>March 14, 2019</b> <i>10:00 AM – 3:00 PM</i>	<b>Shifting from Design to Development</b>
<b>April 19, 2019</b>	<b>Pilot Proposals Due</b>
<b>Early June 2019</b>	<b>Pilot Funding Awards Announced</b>
<b>June 2019 - June 2020</b>	<b>Pilot Period for Awarded Grantees</b>



**ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS AND PRIORITY POINTS**

**WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE D3 SCHOOLS PROJECT?**

**To apply for the D3 Schools Project, your organization must be:**

- A Georgia local education agency (LEA)/school district
- A Georgia traditional public school or charter school

Please note that, while GOSA has previously awarded Innovation Fund grants directly to nonprofit organizations, RESAs, and institutions of higher education, **this grant opportunity is exclusively for LEAs, traditional public schools, or charter schools.** Eligible organizations are encouraged to partner with other types of organizations, such as postsecondary institutions, nonprofit organizations, and community-based agencies. **However, the LEA, traditional public school, or charter school must submit the application and serve as the fiscal agent for all grant funds.**

**WHAT TYPES OF APPLICANTS WILL RECEIVE PRIORITY POINTS ON THEIR APPLICATION?**

Applicants that fall into one of the following categories will receive priority points on their application, in alignment with the below chart. Please note that applicants will only receive priority points in one category (the category for which they would receive the most points). For example, a high-need, rural school on the Turnaround Eligible List would receive seven points total, rather than seven points for being on the Turnaround Eligible List and five for being a high-need, rural school. To receive priority points, applicants must indicate which category they fall into on their grant application. GOSA will verify that the information provided by the applicant is correct prior to awarding the priority points.

Category	Priority Points	Notes
<b>Schools on the Turnaround Eligible Schools List</b>	<b>+7 points</b>	To receive points for this category, a school must be on the <a href="#">Turnaround Eligible Schools list</a> . Please note that <i>school districts</i> are only eligible for these priority points if they plan to focus exclusively on school(s) on the Turnaround Eligible Schools List during the D3 Schools Project planning process.
<b>High-Need Rural Schools/School Districts</b>	<b>+5 points</b>	To receive points for this category a school district must be located in a county designated as Tier 1 or Tier 2 based on the Georgia Department of Community Affairs' annual job tax credit tiers AND must serve fewer than 25 students per square mile. <a href="#">Click here for a map and list of high-need, rural school districts</a> . Individual schools within the listed school districts are also eligible for priority points.



**THE D3 SCHOOLS PROJECT APPLICATION PROCESS**

**WHEN ARE THE D3 SCHOOLS PROJECT GRANT APPLICATIONS DUE?**

The timeframe for the D3 Schools Project grant application process is below:

<b>March 30, 2018</b>	<a href="#">Application</a> & <a href="#">Technical Assistance Webinar Opens</a>
<b>May 3, 2018</b>	Applications Due
<b>May 24 &amp; 25, 2018</b>	Interviews for Select Applicants
<b>Early – Mid June 2018</b>	Grant Awards Announced

**HOW DO I APPLY?**

To apply for the D3 Schools Project grant, please follow the steps below:

1. Carefully review these Grant Guidelines.
2. Determine if your school or district is eligible to apply and if your school or district is eligible for priority points.
3. Beginning on March 30, 2018, participate in **the mandatory Technical Assistance Webinar**. [Click here to access the webinar](#).
4. Once you participate in the webinar, create an account, or if you already have an account, log in to complete your application at <http://innovationfund.fluidreview.com>.
5. Electronically submit your completed application, including your answers to the application questions, along with all required documents, no later than **May 3, 2018**.



### WHAT QUESTIONS ARE ON THE D3 SCHOOLS PROJECT GRANT APPLICATION?

The D3 Schools Project Grant Application is divided into four sections, listed below. [For a list of the application questions, click here.](#)

SECTION	# OF QUESTIONS	REQUIRED DOCUMENTS	POSSIBLE POINTS	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL SCORE
<b>What Is Your Idea?</b>	4	n/a	8	10%
<b>All About Your School or District</b>	2	n/a	8	10%
<b>Who Is Involved?</b>	2	Statement of Commitment from Each Team Member	8	40%
<b>Other Questions?</b>	4	n/a	8 points per question	40% (10% per question)

### WHAT WILL A SUCCESSFUL D3 SCHOOLS PROJECT GRANT APPLICATION LOOK LIKE?

Successful applications will demonstrate that the applicant:

- Can clearly articulate the problem to be addressed;
- Fully understands the circumstances or factors contributing to the problem;
- Can clearly outline the school or district's strengths and challenges in the following areas:
  - **School Leadership** - meaning the consistency of school and district leadership, as well as the extent to which school or district leadership: (a) sets a clear vision, mission, and goals (b) provides effective support for staff in meeting those goals, (c) continually improves the quality of teaching and learning, and (d) effectively engages parents and the community.
  - **Positive Learning Climate** - meaning how the school or district fosters an environment that: (a) holds students, teachers, and leaders to high standards and provides support in meeting those standards, and (b) meets students' academic and nonacademic needs.
  - **Academic Achievement** - meaning the extent to which students can successfully gain knowledge, utilize critical thinking skills, and understand and apply grade-level knowledge from specific content areas (ex: mathematics, literacy, science, social studies).



- *Wraparound Services* - meaning the extent to which a school or district meets students' nonacademic needs (socioemotional, physical, mental, etc.) at the school site or by connecting students with resources from local service providers.
- Has a dynamic and diverse team – representing all required categories (listed on page three), including a leader with decision-making power – that will fully participate in the D3 Schools Project planning process;
- Understands multiple factors that prevent students from succeeding academically; and
- Has a mindset that will enable them to succeed in the D3 Schools Project.

### **HOW WILL GOSA SCORE MY GRANT APPLICATION?**

Two reviewers will score each D3 Schools Project grant application. Based on this review, GOSA will invite top applicants to interview. GOSA will determine admission to the D3 Schools Project based on the application as well as the team's answers during the interview.



## THE D3 SCHOOLS PROJECT: EXPECTATIONS FOR FUNDED GRANTEES

If selected to participate in the D3 Schools Project, GOSA will expect you to meet the below expectations. Please note, GOSA will provide more detailed information regarding these expectations and reporting requirements to schools and districts selected to participate.

**Bring the Right Team.** A team of at least five and no more than eight individuals must attend each session. At a minimum, this team must include:

- District Staff Member with *decision making power, meaning that this person directly supervises principals or other school administrators,*
- School Board Member or Charter School Board Member,
- School Principal,
- 1 Teacher/Teacher Leader (instructional coach, etc.),
- 1 Parent or Community Member, and
- Student Designee (**required for middle and high school applicants only, as well as district applicants that will focus on middle or high school**). *Please note, this student does not have to attend sessions. However, this student will be involved throughout the D3 Schools Project planning process by: (a) providing student insight into the challenges your school/district is facing, and (b) generating and/or providing feedback on possible ideas to address those challenges.*

**Fully Engage with the D3 Schools Project planning process.** To succeed in the project, you must fully engage with the process – including both the in-person professional learning sessions and in between assignments and field trips. **Full engagement** means actively participating in sessions, devoting your time and focus to the in-between activities, and staying open to both positive and constructive feedback about your progress and ideas.

**Complete all Required Assignments.** Between each learning session, grantees must complete all required assignments and email them to Kimberly Turner (kimberly.turner@gosa.ga.gov) by the specified deadline. Grantees will receive details about the upcoming assignment(s) during each learning session.

GOSA reserves the right to remove participating schools and districts from the D3 Schools Project and/or withhold grant funds if they are not meeting the above expectations.

### **If I am awarded funding, how do I access my D3 Schools Project grant funds?**

The D3 Schools Project is a reimbursement-based grant. **GOSA will reimburse all allowable expenditures at the end of the grant period only, provided that the grantee has met the grant**



**requirements and provided necessary documentation.** GOSA will provide more details regarding this process to funded grantees.

### **How can I use my D3 Schools Project grant funds?**

Please note that D3 Schools Project grant funds can only support expenses directly related to the professional learning sessions and assignment(s) including: travel to and from sessions, parking, per diem to cover the cost of food on session days, stipends for participating staff, and substitutes. All travel expenses must comply with the [State of Georgia Travel Policy](#). D3 Schools Project grant funds cannot cover the cost of equipment, supplies, or indirect expenses, unless approved in advance by GOSA.