

SHARK TANK: THE INNOVATION FUND CHALLENGE GRANT GUIDELINES

About the Innovation Fund

The [Innovation Fund](#), operated by the Governor's Office of Student Achievement (GOSA), provides competitive grants to local education agencies (LEAs), charter schools, and traditional public schools to plan, implement or scale innovative education projects aligned with the Innovation Fund's priority areas. Since 2011, the Innovation Fund has invested over \$27 million of state and federal funding through 54 grants, ranging in focus from teacher and leader induction and development to STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) applied learning, blended learning, and birth to age eight language and literacy development.

At the 2016 Innovation Fund Summit and Technical Assistance Day, on June 2nd and 3rd, 2016, GOSA will host the first-ever Shark Tank: The Innovation Fund Challenge where up to four presenters will have the opportunity to earn a \$10,000 tiny grant for an innovative teacher or leader development project. Keep reading to find out more about this opportunity and how you can participate!

About Shark Tank: The Innovation Fund Challenge

Shark Tank: The Innovation Fund Challenge provides an opportunity for eligible current and former Innovation Fund grantees, [Innovation in Teaching Competition](#) winners and their schools, or any eligible public school K-12 teacher in Georgia to receive a tiny grant (up to \$10,000) to pilot a small-scale teacher or leader development project. At the 2016 Innovation Fund Summit and Technical Assistance Day, selected participants will have five to ten minutes each to pitch their ideas to a panel of education sharks (including GOSA staff and other education experts), who will ask questions about each pitch. Once each presenter has pitched his/her idea, GOSA will award one to four tiny grant(s) to the winning pitch or pitches at the event.

Award Timeline

March 25, 2016	Innovation Fund Shark Tank Proposal Forms Due
Late April	Highest-Scoring Applications Notified of Opportunity to Pitch their Ideas at the Innovation Fund Summit and Technical Assistance Day
June 2, 2016	Shark Tank: The Innovation Fund Challenge Event

Submission Instructions

To participate in Shark Tank: The Innovation Fund Challenge, please follow the steps below:

1. Carefully review this document, including the eligibility requirements, definitions of a tiny grant and teacher and leader development program, and proposal components.
2. Electronically submit the Innovation Fund Shark Tank Proposal Form at this link: <https://gosaga.wufoo.com/forms/shark-tank-the-innovation-fund-challenge-proposal/> **no later than March 25, 2016**. Please note, *all applicants* will need to upload the [Shark Tank Budget Template](#), and *all teacher applicants* will need to upload the [Principal Certification Form](#).

GOSA will review these proposals and score them using the [Shark Tank Proposal Rubric](#). The four highest-scoring applicants will have the opportunity to pitch their ideas at the Innovation Fund Summit and Technical Assistance Day on June 2, 2016. Applicants selected to participate in the Shark Tank will receive further instructions regarding the pitch requirements when they are notified of their selection.

Other strong applications, although not selected to participate in the live Shark Tank competition event, may be invited to submit a video presentation in the Shark Tank-like format following the competition. Additional grant awards will be available based on the results of the review and scoring of those submissions. Full details of this follow-up grant opportunity will be published following the June 2nd event.

If you have any questions during the application process, please contact:

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Eligibility Requirements

You are eligible to participate in the Innovation Fund Shark Tank if:

- You are a current or former Innovation Fund grantee that is a local education agency (LEA), charter school, or traditional public school, *or*
- You are an Innovation in Teaching Competition winner* or the principal, assistant principal, or executive director of an Innovation in Teaching Competition winner's school, *or*

- You are a K-12 teacher at a charter school or traditional public school in the state of Georgia, and you have been teaching for at least three years.*

**Please note that all teacher applicants must submit a signed [Principal Certification Form](#) as part of their application.*

What is a tiny grant?

A ***tiny grant*** is a grant of no more than \$10,000 for a school district, charter school, traditional public school, or an eligible public school K-12 teacher to pilot a small-scale innovative teacher or leader development project. For example:

- A district may provide computer science and coding professional development for first grade teachers at one elementary school, or
- Two exemplary teachers with blended learning expertise may train other teachers using an “edcamp” or “unconference” approach, which delivers learning opportunities through open space technology (OST), without pre-organized sessions. Any attendee can schedule a session to present based upon the input from all participants.

Tiny grants will allow grantees the opportunity to create, test, iterate, and implement ground-breaking ideas. The idea is simple – a small investment, less risk, and the opportunity to pilot truly innovative ideas on a small scale.

How long will a tiny grant last?

Tiny grant recipients have up to two years from the grant award date (June 2, 2016) to use their funds.

What is a teacher and leader development project?

A ***Teacher and Leader Development*** project focuses on building teacher and leader capacity to improve student achievement. Teacher and leader development projects may include, but are not limited to, projects that: (a) build the pipeline of effective teachers and leaders, (b) recruit and retain effective teachers and leaders, and/or (c) provide professional development opportunities—focusing on bold ideas and direct student impact—to empower educators to create effective solutions for student learning.

If I receive a tiny grant, what are the reporting expectations?

Tiny grant recipients will be responsible for turning in financial and evaluation reports. Specifically:

- In order to access the grant funds, tiny grantees will submit quarterly financial reports and supporting documentation for quarterly expenditures. *Please note that all tiny grants are reimbursement-based. If a teacher receives a tiny grant, the teacher's school or district must serve as the fiscal agent for all grant funds. Tiny grant funds cannot be allocated toward personal honorariums for the applicant or used for expansion and/or maintenance of previous grants.*
- Tiny grantees will submit evaluation reports sharing the pilot project's progress, outcomes, lessons learned, and best practices. GOSA will provide specific tiny grant evaluation guidelines to help guide this process.

What is on the Innovation Fund Shark Tank Proposal Form?

The [Innovation Fund Shark Tank Proposal Form](#) consists of the following sections and questions. If selected to pitch your idea, you will be required to provide additional information including an evaluation plan and scope of work.

Section	Questions
Executive Summary (25 points)	<p>In 850 words or less, please provide an executive summary of your project, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The project's mission; 2) The type (grade level(s), subject area(s), etc.) and number of teachers or leaders the project will serve; 3) The need that will be addressed (Why do you need to do solve an existing problem in a new way?); 4) A description of any partners/partner organizations and how they will support the project, if applicable; 5) At least 2 SMART (specific, measurable, attainable, results-oriented, time-bound) goals; and 6) A description of how will you evaluate the project's effectiveness.

Innovation <i>(20 points)</i>	<p>In 500 words or less, please describe how your project will use new and inventive approaches to: (a) build the pipeline of effective teachers and leaders, (b) recruit and retain effective teachers and leaders, and/or (c) provide professional development opportunities to empower educators to create effective solutions for student learning.</p>
Action Plan <i>(20 points)</i>	<p>In 500 words or less, please describe your action plan. How do you plan to make this project a reality? What is your timeline for executing this project?</p>
Capacity <i>(20 points)</i>	<p>In 250 words or less, please describe (using specific and concrete examples) your ability to plan, execute, and monitor the grant project and the associated expenses.</p>
Budget <i>(15 points)</i>	<p>Please upload a completed Shark Tank Budget Template reflecting how you will use your tiny grant funds. Please include all of your needed supplies, materials, and equipment, along with any funding sources that will support your project.</p>