

MEMORANDUM

TO: District Superintendents
Principals
Public Information Officers

FROM: John E. Tyler, Esq.
Deputy Superintendent and General Counsel, Division of Legal Affairs

DATE: June 3, 2025

RE: Innovation Grant Program Grant Opportunity

The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) announces that the 2025–26 Request for Proposals for the **Innovation Grant** is now available online. Approximately \$9,000,000 in funding will be awarded on a competitive basis; the deadline to apply is **June 30, 2025**.

The purpose of the Innovation Grant Program is to support innovative pilot initiatives in public school districts and schools that include the criteria

- (1) identification of key measurable benchmarks to raise student achievement and ensure all students are prepared to graduate college, career and civic ready;
- (2) innovative strategies to close student achievement gaps in reading and mathematics, with a focus on schools with an academic achievement rating of below average and unsatisfactory;
- (3) a demonstrated ability to implement the initiative or model as outlined in the application; and
- (4) a demonstrated ability to be both replicable and scalable with priority given to projects grounded in evidence-based practices that have significantly impacted student achievement outcomes.

Public school districts and schools that have high poverty and low achievement will receive priority for grants when their applications are judged to meet the criteria established for the grant program.

Visit the [SCDE Grant Opportunities](#) webpage for updated information on grants, eligibility, application deadlines, and technical assistance. For more information about the Innovation Grant program, contact Phillip Cease at phcease@ed.sc.gov.