



**STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

MOLLY M. SPEARMAN
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

TO: District Superintendents

FROM: Molly M. Spearman
State Superintendent of Education

DATE: July 23, 2015

RE: New Tech Opportunity for Your District

One of the South Carolina Department of Education's personalized learning partners, [New Tech Network](#), is applying for an Investing in Innovation (i3) Validation grant focused on Absolute Priority 3—Implementing Comprehensive High School Reform and Redesign. New Tech Network is intent on including financial, planning, and implementation support for South Carolina high schools in its application.

If your district meets the eligibility criteria below and you would like to learn more about the opportunity to partner with New Tech Network on comprehensive high school redesign through this i3 grant, please plan to attend the upcoming informational session:

Meeting Title: New Tech Network i3 Informational Meeting

Date: Tuesday, July 28, 2015

Time: 11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Location: Brookland-Cayce High School

Parking: 1300 State Street, Cayce, SC 29033. Guests should park in the visitors' parking lot at the stadium and signs will direct you to the meeting location.

Hosts: Dr. Kristin Cuilla, New Tech Network
Courtenay Nantz, Riley Institute
Gregg Morton and Bonnie Moskos, Brookland-Cayce High School
South Carolina Department of Education

Please RSVP: Dr. Kristin Cuilla, kcuilla@newtechnetwork.org

For those districts new to the New Tech approach, Dr. Cuilla will remain on site after the i3 informational meeting to provide an overview and to answer additional questions.

District leaders interested in strengthening their existing New Tech High School implementations or in implementing the [New Tech design](#) at a high school for the first

time must meet one of the following eligibility criteria as defined in the Federal Register for Validation Grants:

- eligible to operate Title I school-wide programs under Section 1114 of ESEA of 1965, as amended, or
- demonstrate that not less than 40 percent of students are from low-income families.

In the interim, please note the following proposed outcomes, timeline, and awards:

Proposed Outcomes:

- Through comprehensive high school redesign, New Tech Network partners and districts will improve education achievement and attainment for high school students attending high-poverty schools in South Carolina (and Arkansas).
- Strengthen and scale promising practices across southern and eastern states.
- Provide the rigorous evidence necessary to validate the New Tech model, leading to long-term sustainability and further scale across the U.S.

Proposed Timeline:

- 36–60 months
- New implementations begin professional development—January 2016
- i3 implementation and existing school program will span between 3–5 years

Proposed Awards:

- Total support range: up to \$75,000 (existing implementations) and up to \$200,000 (new implementations)
- 6–10 new implementations each in South Carolina and Arkansas
- 6–10 existing New Tech schools each in South Carolina and Arkansas