



GEORGIA'S INNOVATION FUND

About the Innovation Fund

The Innovation Fund, operated by the Governor's Office of Student Achievement (GOSA), strives to advance student achievement in Georgia. To accomplish this goal, we invest in school districts, charter schools, and traditional public schools committed to planning, implementing and scaling programs that reimagine education for Georgia's students. Specifically, the Innovation Fund invests in programs focusing on STEAM applied learning, birth to age eight language & literacy development, blended & personalized learning, and teacher and leader development for high-need schools. Since its inception, the Innovation Fund has invested over \$36 million of state and federal funding through over 200 grants to teachers, school districts, traditional public schools, charter schools, postsecondary institutions, and nonprofit organizations.

Innovation Fund Priority Areas

Applied Learning with a Focus on STEAM Education

Birth to Age Eight Language and Literacy Development

Blended & Personalized Learning

Teacher and Leader Development for High-Need Schools

Available Grants

Each year, the Innovation Fund offers the following types of grants. The grant application typically opens in the late spring or early summer, and GOSA awards grants by December.

- **The Innovation Fund Accelerator** provides participants \$10,000 to engage in a six-month, GOSA-facilitated planning process where they develop purposeful innovations that target the root causes of challenging and complex education problems. At the end of the six months, participants can apply for up to \$45,000 to pilot the programs they invented during the Accelerator.
- **Implementation Grants** provide eligible organizations \$200,000 to \$700,000 over two and a half years to implement a program aligned with one of the Innovation Fund's priority areas.
- **Scaling Grants** provide eligible organizations \$200,000 to \$700,000 over two and a half years to scale an existing successful program aligned with one of the Innovation Fund's priority areas. Scaling grant applicants must provide evidence that the existing program has generated positive student outcomes, and that, when replicated, the model will yield similar outcomes.
- **Tiny Grants** provide between \$1,000 and \$7,000 to eligible Georgia teachers, leaders, schools and districts to support projects that directly engage students.

What is Innovation?

Innovative programs:

- Target the root cause of a challenging and complex problem by utilizing breakthrough, never-before-seen approaches to education;
- Are developed for and with students, teachers, and leaders;
- Disrupt existing structures and systems;
- Have the potential to transform education permanently; and
- Can be objectively evaluated using a comparison group of students, teachers or leaders;

In addition to the above criteria, the Innovation Fund invests in grant programs that are a **Level 3 or 4 Innovation**, as detailed in the chart below.

| Level of Innovation | Mindset | Outcome | Example |
|---|--|---|--|
| Level 4: Creator of New Future | Visionary, fully engaged, and entrepreneurial – “Where must we be in ten years?” | Breakthrough approaches to teaching and learning, never- before-seen approaches to education. | A school district creates a mobile school to serve transient homeless students. |
| Level 3: Continuous Improver | Dissatisfied with the status quo – “Good enough is not good enough” | Incremental changes to teaching, learning, and school models are proposed and implemented. | A school district starts a new after school program for homeless students, designed to help them improve their life skills and stay in school. |
| Level 2: Problem Preventer | Mindful and prepared of potential challenges – “Not on my watch.” | Challenges are managed and mitigated. | A district starts an incentive program designed to improve homeless students’ attendance. |
| Level 1: Problem Solver | Practical, competent – “I can do this.” | Challenges are resolved. | A district makes sure it provides efficient transportation for all homeless students. |

Want to Learn More?

To learn more about the Innovation Fund and stay up to date with our current grant opportunities, please visit <https://gosa.georgia.gov/innovation-fund> or scan the QR code. You can also follow us on Twitter @GOSA_GA.

