# Virginia Department of Education

**Instructions for Application for Fiscal Year 2021 *Start-up Grant* for School Divisions Pursuing the Development of an Extended School Year or Year-Round School Program for**

**School Divisions or Individual Schools**

## Background

The 2012 Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) report, [Review of Year-Round Schools](http://jlarc.virginia.gov/pdfs/reports/Rpt430.pdf), was issued in October 2012.  It found that the Standards of Learning (SOL) test scores for the general student population were similar at year-round schools and traditional calendar schools.  However, certain student subgroups were more likely to improve their SOL test scores at a faster rate at year-round schools.

In support of the findings from the 2012 JLARC review, the General Assembly has included funding for Start-up grants in the Appropriation Act since 2014 to assist interested school divisions in implementing year-round school or extended school year programs.

## Application Deadline and Implementation Time Frame

Any local school divisions interested in pursuing a Start-up Grant to implement a year-round schools or extended school year program must submit a completed PDF version of the application and related materials to Kim Powell, Grants and Reports Manager, at [kim.powell@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:kim.powell@doe.virginia.gov) **by 5 p.m. on Friday, June 12, 2020**.

Please contact Mark Saunders, Technology Coordinator, by email at [mark.saunders@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:mark.saunders@doe.virginia.gov) or by phone at 804-786-0307 if you have any questions about this application process.

The fiscal year 2021 Start-up grants will fund implementation of Extended School Year or Year-Round School programs in the 2020-2021 school year.

Recipients of funds may ***spend*** grant funds over two consecutive fiscal years. However, recipients of grant funds ***receive*** grant funds in one fiscal year. Recipients of grant funds are **NOT** automatically awarded grant funds over two consecutive fiscal years. Recipients of grant funds must ***apply*** each fiscal year in order to continue receiving grant funds each fiscal year. **This is an annual application.**

## application SECTIONS and evaluation

1. General Information
2. Assurances and Signatures
3. Names and Physical Locations of Participating School(s)
4. Title and Program Description
5. School and Student Demographic Information
6. Goal, Objectives, Strategies, Metrics, and Assessment Instruments
7. Proposed School Calendar (if applicable-see note below)
8. Collaboration
9. Timeline of Initiatives and Tasks
10. Description of Capacity
11. Budget of Direct Costs
12. List of Appendices (if applicable)
13. Application Rubric

**Calendar Note:** [An Act](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+ful+CHAP0569) to amend and reenact §§ [22.1-79.1](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/22.1-79.1/) and [22.1-296](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/22.1-296/) of the Code of Virginia, relating to the school calendar and the opening day of the school year was approved by the General Assembly on

March 18, 2019.

A. Each local school board shall set the school calendar so that the first day students are required to attend school shall be *no earlier than 14 days before* Labor Day. *In each school division in which the school board sets the school calendar so that the first day students are required to attend school is before Labor Day, such school board shall close each school in the school division from the Friday immediately preceding Labor Day through Labor Day.* The Board of Education may waive this requirement based on a school board certifying that it meets the good cause requirements of subsection B.

B. For purposes of this section, "good cause" means *a* school division is providing its students, in the school year for which the waiver is sought, instructional programs that are offered on a year-round basis by the school division in one or more of its elementary or middle or high schools*. Any waiver provided pursuant to this subsection shall only apply to the opening date for those schools where such year-round instructional programs are offered*.

School divisions seeking to implement an Extended School Year or Year-Round School program with a school opening more than 14 days prior to Labor Day will need to submit a waiver to the Board of Education prior to the adoption of an Extended School Year or Year-Round School calendar. This waiver would apply to the year-round or extended school year school only.

Department staff will evaluate each application based on the criteria identified below in Section M - Application Rubric. Decisions about award amounts will consider factors including the amount of available funds, the number of applications recommended for funding, and the amounts requested in the recommended applications. If the total amount requested in the applications recommended for funding exceeds the total amount of available funding, awards may be adjusted to reflect the difference.

## Grant Award details

Annual start-up grants for an Extended School Year or Year-Round School of up to $300,000 per school may be awarded for a period of up to two years after the initial implementation year.

School divisions applying for a grant shall be required to provide a twenty percent local match to the grant amount received from an extended/enriched school year or year-round school start-up grant.

After the third consecutive year of successful participation, all grant awards shall be based on a shared split of the grant between the state and participating school division's local composite index. Such continuing schools shall remain eligible to receive a grant based on the 2012 JLARC Review of Year Round Schools' researched base findings.

All applicants must provide assurances that they will adhere to state laws and regulations governing public schools, including the Virginia *Standards of Quality*, the Virginia *Standards of Learning*, and the Virginia Board of Education’s *Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia*. Consequently, the Start-up grantswill only be awarded to applicants whose proposals adhere to these laws, regulations, requirements, and standards.

**Schools that have an Accredited with Conditions status and are rated at Level Three in two or more Academic Achievement for All Students school quality indicators, or schools that qualified for the per school grant up to $400,000 under the previous Standards of Accreditation Denied Accreditation status, please refer to the following instructions.**

**The per school amount may be up to $400,000** in the case of schools that have an Accredited with Conditions status and are rated at Level Three in two or more Academic Achievement for All Students school quality indicators, or schools that had an Accredited with Conditions status and were rated at Level Three in two or more Academic Achievement for All Students school quality indicators when the initial application was made.

Schools that qualified for the per school grant up to $400,000 under the previous Standards of Accreditation Denied Accreditation status remain eligible for funding for the initial three year period; after that period, such schools are subject to eligibility under the current Standards of Accreditation.

School divisions with schools that are in an Accredited with Conditions status and are rated at Level Three in two or more Academic Achievement for All Students school quality indicators or in a Denied Accreditation status **do not need to provide a twenty percent grant match for the first three implementation years**.

In the case of any school division with schools that are in an Accredited with Conditions status and are rated at Level Three in two or more Academic Achievement for All Students school quality indicators or in a Denied Accreditation status that apply for funds, the school division shall also **consult with the Superintendent of Public Instruction or designee on all recommendations regarding instructional programs or instructional personnel prior to submission to the local board for approval**.

**After the third consecutive year of successful participation, all grant awards shall be based on a shared split of the grant between the state and participating school division's local composite index**. This includes schools that were Accredited with Conditions and are rated at Level Three in two or more Academic Achievement for All Students school quality indicators. Such continuing schools shall remain eligible to receive a grant based on the 2012 JLARC Review of Year Round Schools' researched base findings.

All applicants must provide assurances that they will adhere to state laws and regulations governing public schools, including the Virginia *Standards of Quality*, the Virginia *Standards of Learning*, and the Virginia Board of Education’s *Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia*. Consequently, the Start-up grantswill only be awarded to applicants whose proposals adhere to these laws, regulations, requirements, and standards.

## Grant disbursements

Once an executed grant award agreement is in place, the Virginia Department of Education will issue payment for one-third of the award amount on the following dates:

* October 16, 2020
* January 22, 2021
* April 23, 2021

## reporting requirements

The grant recipients shall submit a Progress Report and an Annual Report. Templates for both reports will be provided as part of the grant award notification process.

* Mid-year Progress Report will be due on or before **January 31, 2021**
* Annual Report will be due on or before **September 1, 2021**

## General Instructions

1. Applicants must submit a completed PDF version of the application and related materials to Kim Powell, Grants and Reports Manager, at [kim.powell@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:kim.powell@doe.virginia.gov) **by 5 p.m. on Friday, June 12, 2020**. The Department may reject proposals, which are incomplete or late.
2. The division superintendent and the chair of the local school board shall sign proposals.
3. Proposals should be prepared simply and economically, providing a concise description of capabilities to satisfy the requirements of the Start-up Grant application. Emphasis should be placed on completeness and clarity of content.
4. All pages should be numbered.
5. The applicant should use a standard 12-point Arial font for the proposal and any additional materials.
6. Each proposal should contain a completed application. The application is located on the [Department’s Website.](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/year-round/index.shtml) Any additional material provided with the application should be clearly referenced in the table of contents as an appendix in the order in which it is referenced in the application.

## Contact Information

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