



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA  
Department of Education

April 14, 2017

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Steven R. Staples, Superintendent of Public Instruction

**SUBJECT: High School Program Innovation Planning Grant Request for Proposals –  
Fiscal Year 2018**

The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) is pleased to announce the third year of the **High School Program Innovation (HSPI)** request for proposals (RFP). The 2017 Appropriation Act (pending final signature by the Governor) has provided funding for up to five (5) competitive planning grants to be awarded in fiscal year 2018, each not to exceed \$50,000. Individual school divisions or consortia of school divisions are eligible to submit proposals meeting the intent of the RFP document, available as Attachment A of this memorandum. Proposals may target one or more high schools in each participating school division. It is anticipated that awards will be made on or about July 1, 2017.

For the purposes of this proposal, essential elements of high school innovation include: a) student centered learning, with progress based on student demonstrated proficiency; b) “real-world” connections that promote alignment with community workforce needs and emphasize transition to college and/or career; and c) varying models for educator supports and staffing. The availability of planning grant funding, along with the opportunity for flexibility or exemption from certain administrative regulations, is intended to encourage new models of high school organization and instruction and to identify promising practices for scaling across Virginia in the future.

This is an exciting opportunity for school divisions to be creative in how their systems of instructional delivery and organization can be significantly improved, including new ways to look at personalized learning, progress based on demonstrated proficiency and competency-based learning, and embedded connections with postsecondary education and the business community. The HSPI grant program also encourages alternative pathways to achieving a high school diploma, which address demonstrated competencies, giving due consideration to critical thinking, creative thinking, collaboration, communication, and citizenship. **School divisions awarded planning grants must be prepared to implement their innovative reform models over two years beginning with the 2018-2019 school year.**

Completed proposals must be received electronically by the VDOE no later than **4 p.m., June 1, 2017**. The deadline for submission of the **Intent-to-Submit Form is April 27, 2017**. A pre-proposal webinar will be conducted at **3 p.m. on May 4, 2017**. For additional information, please contact Steven M. Constantino, Ed.D., Chief Academic Officer, Division of Instruction, by email at [steven.constantino@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:steven.constantino@doe.virginia.gov) or by telephone at (804) 225-2034.

SRS/TMM/rt

Attachment:

- A. [High School Program Innovation Planning Grant Request for Proposals](#) (Word)

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