



#127-21

**Commonwealth of Virginia
Virginia Department of Education
Superintendent's Memo #127-21**

DATE: May 14, 2021
TO: Division Superintendents
FROM: James F. Lane, Ed.D., Superintendent of Public Instruction
SUBJECT: **K-12 School Innovation Planning Grant Request for Proposals-Fiscal Year 2022**

The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) is pleased to announce the seventh year of the **K-12 School Innovation Planning (K12 SIP) Grant request for proposals (RFP)**, formerly the High School Program Innovation Grant. The 2021 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 2021, 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 schools in each participating school division. It is anticipated that awards will be made on or about July 31, 2021.

For the purposes of this proposal, essential elements of 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 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 K12 SIP 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 2022-2023 school year.

Completed proposals must be received electronically by the VDOE no later than **4 p.m. on July 2, 2021**. The deadline for submission of the **Intent-to-Submit Form** is **June 1, 2021**. A pre-proposal webinar will be conducted at **3:30 p.m. on June 4, 2021**.

For more information

For additional information, please contact Dr. Brendon Albon, Director of STEM and Innovation, Department of Learning and Innovation, by email at Brendon.Albon@doe.virginia.gov or by telephone at (804) 786-2481.

JFL/MFB/BLA/mr

- A. Attachment: [K-12 School Innovation Planning Grant Request for Proposals](#) (DOCX)