INNOVATION GRANT

2012-2013 Application

"The Innovation Fund grant competition reflects well my belief that we must empower local schools and communities to be centers of innovation. These grants will help support the great things happening across our state by funding what works. I am eager to see the positive results for students brought about through this exciting program."

– Dr. Tony Bennett, Superintendent of Public Instruction

Purpose: The purpose of the Innovation Fund is to provide competitive grants to applicants that will dramatically improve student academic achievement and growth. The programs of Innovation Fund grantees will (1) reflect best practices that are sustainable and can be taken to scale, (2) enhance educational opportunities in the short- and long-term, and (3) embody a sense of rigor, urgency, comprehensiveness, and integration. These grants will expand the implementation of, and investment in, innovative initiatives that will impact the priorities outlined below.

Priorities: The Innovation Fund has three key priorities:
1. Educator Effectiveness (this may include, but is not limited to, efforts to recruit, retain, recognize, reward, develop, or support educators)
2. College and Career Readiness (this may include, but is not limited to, efforts to prepare students for post-secondary success, accelerate completion of post-secondary programs, or align secondary and post-secondary programs)
3. School Improvement (this may include, but is not limited to, efforts to increase academic rigor, effectively implement academic standards, or incorporate virtual learning)

Procedure:

Timeline: **All applications must be received via electronic submission no later than 4 p.m. EDT December 31, 2012. No exceptions will be made.** Each applicant must submit one electronic copy. The applicant's response may be posted on the IDOE website, if recommended for award. All applications must be addressed to the following:

policy@doe.in.gov
Include name of applying organization in the subject line

Questions may be directed to the following: policy@doe.in.gov
Winners will be announced spring of 2013

Eligibility: All traditional and charter public schools, non-public schools, and other entities, programs, organizations, or individuals are eligible to apply. Eligibility is not restricted to new or start-up programs. An applicant may only submit one application.

Resources: For information on past winners, please see http://www.doe.in.gov/news/ten-receive-funding-innovative-education-initiatives

Parameters: Funding will be available to winners in early 2013 and will only be allocated for a one-year timeline.

The IDOE reserves the right to request additional information from applicants selected as finalists. The IDOE may request the information in the form of conference calls, meetings, presentations, or other communications.

Scoring and Selection:

Selection: The Innovation Fund program is a competitive grant process. Grant recipients will be selected based on the proposed program's alignment to the grant priorities and its ability to create transformational change in a crucial area of need.

Scoring: Applications will be scored on four domains: the Statement of Innovation, the Program Description, the Impact on Student Achievement, and the Program Support. Indicators within domains will be weighted based on the significance of the indicator in driving student achievement and creating transformational innovations.

Each application will be scored by IDOE staff and potentially other experts trained on the metrics of this application.

Information and feedback may be provided to all applicants following the scoring process.

Grant Amounts: The total amount available to be allocated through the Innovation Fund is $2,500,000. Individual grant amounts allocated to selected programs will not exceed $500,000 each. IDOE may offer grantees amounts less than requested in the application.

Reporting: Grantees will be required to collect data on the impact of the funded program. A program receiving a grant will enter an agreement with IDOE to communicate details regarding the implementation and impact of the funded program. The IDOE reserves the right to publish information regarding the grant's impact on student achievement.

Application:

Required
Documentation:

In addition to the components described below, applicants are required to submit the following documentation, which do not count toward the final page limit:

- Applicant descriptive information on the attached cover sheet
- Documentation of support from programs, schools, and/or organizations participating in the proposed program (if applicable)

Structure:

Applications are <u>not to exceed 15 pages</u> in length. An electronic submission must be sent in a single .pdf document. Please place the cover sheet at the front of the submission. Incomplete applications will not be scored. Pages beyond the page limit will not be scored.

Content:

Applications are to include materials, narratives, data and/or other evidence to describe the proposed program's plans to meet the grant's requirements.

Applicants must complete all forms included in this application, including the attached budget template.

Cover Sheet (does not count toward final page limit)

APPLICANT DESCRIPTIVE INFORMATION	
Program submitted by:	**Corporation number** (if applicable):
Contact person name:	
Contact person phone number:	
Contact person email address:	
Address of organization submitting application (street, city, state, ZIP):	
Contact person:	
Number of students to be included in program:	
Number of teachers to be included in program:	
Total amount requested (no grantee will be awarded more than $500,000: $	
Name of school (s), superintendent(s), and/or principals of school(s) involved with the program: (if applicable):	

Statement of Innovation

In two pages or fewer, please provide a general description of how the program proposed in the application will meet the purpose and priorities of the Innovation Fund as explained in this application. This section does not count toward the application's 15-page limit.

Domain One: Program Description

Please describe each of the following indicators:

Indicator 1.1: Program History

Narrative:

- The program's development, origins, and background.

Indicator 1.2: Program Leadership

Narrative:

- The faculty or staff involved with the program and their responsibilities as they relate to the proposed program.
- Please attach full resumes or curricula vitae for these leaders as an appendix. Resumes and curricula vitae do not count toward the final page limit.

Indicator 1.3: Research Base

Narrative:

- Cite the research and evidence that supports the program. This section should include current data/progress for continuing programs and relevant academic research for all programs.

Domain Two: Impact on Student Achievement

Please describe each of the following indicators:

Indicator 2.1: Mission and Vision

    Narrative:

- The program's overall mission and vision, and the relationship between the mission/vision and goals and priorities of the grant.

Indicator 2.2: Program Need

    Narrative:

- The specific problem, context, or issue the program is designed to resolve, improve, or change.

Indicator 2.3: Program Objectives

    Narrative:

- The program's short-term goals and objectives, and how the short-term goals and objectives address the stated program need.
- The program's long-term goals and objectives, and how the long-term goals and objectives address the stated program need.

Indicator 2.4: Program Plan

    Narrative:

- The plan, process, and/or method by which the program will accomplish the short-term objectives.
- The plan, process, and/or method by which the program will accomplish the long-term objectives.

Indicator 2.5: Expected Impact

    Narrative:

- The program's measurable expected and desired impact on student achievement and/or growth.
- The program's expected and desired impact on the stated program need.

Domain Three: Program Supports

Please describe each of the following indicators:

Indicator 3.1: Program Progress

Narrative:

- The method by which progress toward short- and long-term objectives will be measured. This section should include the types of data to be collected and the systems in place to track the program's progress.

Indicator 3.2: Program Modifications

Narrative:

- The method, process, and/or procedure by which the program will modify or change the program plan if measured progress is insufficient to meet program objectives.

Indicator 3.3: Program challenges

Narrative:

- The most significant challenges or obstacles that may obstruct the program's ability to accomplish the objectives.

Indicator 3.4: Program Sustainability

Narrative:

- The approach to financial sustainability to continue the program beyond the timeline funded by the Innovation Grant, if applicable.
- The approach to sustainability, in regard to growth, human capital, etc., to continue the program beyond the timeline of the Innovation Grant, if applicable.

Indicator 3.5: Program Budget

Narrative:

- An explanation of how the proposed budget will support the program.
- Please complete the attached budget template, which will not count toward the final page limit.

Indicator 3.6: Program timeline

Narrative:

- A description of when major milestones of the project will be accomplished, who will be accountable for major milestones, and how the overall timeline will support the program.
- Please attach a program timeline as an appendix, which will not count toward the final page limit.