

I. Purpose of Grant

The Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) is committed to providing, “Every Child. Every Chance. Every Day.” To support our schools and educators in this collective effort, the ALSDE is providing a competitive grant opportunity—Creating High Achieving Networks and Cultivating Excellence (CHANCE)—to encourage schools in activities and practices that focus on creating equitable opportunities to implement innovation.

Eligible schools must fall into one of the following categories:

- Comprehensive Support & Improvement (CSI)
- Additional Targeted Support & Improvement (ATSI)
- Graduation Rate/Career Readiness Gap (GRCRG)

The CHANCE Competitive Grant focuses on incorporating evidence-based activities and practices outlined in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Recipients will be innovative change agents who are eager to provide new opportunities for Alabama students.

II. Funding

The CHANCE Competitive Grant will support innovative approaches to meeting schools’ needs by creating a flexible pool of funding that encourages transformative and sustainable ideas. Approved grants may be fully or partially funded. Several factors will determine the size of the awards— review of submitted applications, potential scope of the project, projected cost for implementation, available funds, and greatest promise for positive impact. While multiple awards are anticipated, most will be in the \$75,000-\$100,000 range annually, with some as high as \$750,000, **over a 3-year period, contingent upon meeting annual benchmarks.**

The application deadline is **Thursday, November 18, 2021**. Applicants must submit an electronic copy signed by the principal and superintendent to CHANCEapps@alsde.edu. Due to the competitive nature of this grant, the deadline for applications will not be extended.

Contact Information

FAQs can be viewed [here](#) on the CHANCE Competitive Grant page. If you have additional questions, please submit them to CHANCEapps@alsde.edu by October 29, 2021. Answers to submitted questions will be added to the FAQs no later than November 1, 2021.

III. Eligibility

| CSI Comprehensive Support & Improvement | ATSI Additional Targeted Support & Improvement | GRCRG Graduation Rate/Career Readiness Gap |
|---|--|--|
| <i>Schools in the bottom 6% of Title I Schools and those schools (both Title 1 and non-Title 1) with a graduation rate below 67% or 10 percentage points below the state average (Source: 2018-19 data)</i> | <i>Any school in which one or more subgroups of students is performing at or below the performance of “all students” in the lowest performing schools (Source: 2018-19 data)</i> | <i>Any school with a gap of 25 points or more between the Graduation Rate and College & Career Readiness Rate (Source: 2019-20 data)</i> |

For examples of activities and practices a school may consider, please see Appendix A.

IV. Application Requirements

1. Cover Sheet

2. Grant Narrative (60 Points)

The narrative section of the application must be double-spaced, and the font must not be smaller than 12-point and shall not exceed 5 pages. Each narrative must contain the following:

- a. **Project Description and Justification (20 points)**—Describe how grant funds will be used to address proposed educational activities and practices, including plans to evaluate its impact on students, and address the rationale for the process, product, strategy, or practice that will enable the applicant to reach the level of success proposed in the application. It should also include the use of grant funds to address a particular area that resulted in the school identification of CSI, ATSI, and GRCRG.
- b. **Goals/Objectives (25 points)**— Provide a clear description that specifies goals, objectives, outcomes, and a timeline for the proposed project, as well as specific indicators of project benchmarks. These indicators will seamlessly connect to the plan or monitoring implementation and impact.¹ This plan and timeline must be developed for

¹ Recipients of the CHANCE Competitive Grant will develop a plan for monitoring implementation and impact with the ALSDE. It is imperative that goals are SMART (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, and Time-bound), and plans are aligned with the expected project impact. More information of this process will be made available once the grant has been awarded and accepted.

the period of SY22, SY23, and SY24. Additionally, identify intended strategies for communications with and among school(s), ALSDE, and any stakeholders.

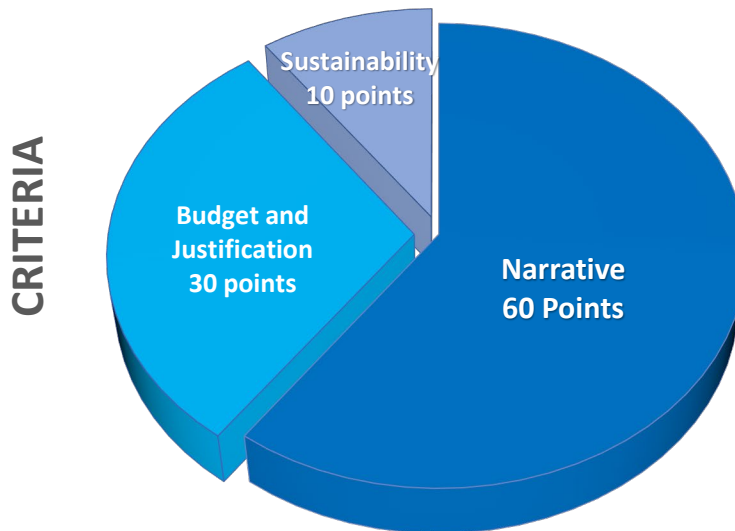
c. Innovative Approach (**15 points**)—describe the implementation of promising activities and practices that build on, or are alternatives to, existing approaches that create equitable opportunities for students.

3. Budget and Budget Justification (30 Points)

Include a cost-effective budget and justification for line items that reflect the goals and priorities of this project. This budget and budget justification must be for SY22, SY23, and SY24.

4. Sustainability (10 Points)

Identify actions school and district will take to continue the innovation beyond the life of the grant. Include sufficient resources (human, fiscal, operational, external partnerships, etc.) that support the implementation and sustainability of the innovation.



V. Application Submission and Review

The application deadline is **Thursday, November 18, 2021**. Applicants must submit an electronic copy signed by the principal and superintendent to CHANCEapps@alsde.edu. Electronic signatures will be accepted.

For rubric, please see Appendix B.

The ALSDE reserves the right to award in full or in part, to reject any and all applications in whole or in part, and to waive technical defects, irregularities or omissions of, if in its judgment, the best interest of students would be served.

Finalists may be asked to participate in an interview before funds are awarded. Applicants will be contacted if such information or actions are necessary.

VI. Project Award and Timeline

The ALSDE shall review approved applications, amendments, and revocation processes, if necessary, involving grant funds. The ALSDE has the responsibility to monitor all grant recipients to ensure that all applicable fiscal and programmatic goals are achieved.

Plan Details

1. The ALSDE will approve innovative status **each year**, for up to three (3) years. If a school loses its eligibility (no longer CSI, ATSI, or GRCRG), the ALSDE will establish a timeline and exit procedures that minimize academic disruptions. If a school gains eligibility (identified as a new CSI, ATSI, or GRCRG), the ALSDE may re-open the application to newly eligible schools for the life of the grant.
2. After annual approvals, schools shall be monitored by the ALSDE for progress and continued support during the three-year term.
3. Applicants must submit a three-year budget and address sustainability.

Renewals

Renewals will be made on a school-by-school basis and will be contingent on the recipient's ability to do the following:

- Implement the terms of the grant
- Meet the benchmarks collaboratively developed by the school and the ALSDE
- Provide evidence of impact
- Meet all reporting and monitoring requirements

Reporting Requirements for Grantees

Recipients will submit semi-annual progress reports to the ALSDE. The update will include a detailed description of how the project goals were met, as well as any challenges that were encountered. Additionally, the final evaluation will include:

- Impactful deliverables—data to support research, planning, and implementation by the school—that align directly to the grant's identified need(s)
- An explanation of sustainable practices—how partnerships functioned including strengths and challenges, if applicable

Timeline



Appendix A: To ensure alignment with Alabama Achieves and Alabama MTSS, here are a few examples that a school may consider integrating in the application.



Full Inclusion Model
National Board Certification
WestEd Reading Apprenticeship
Additional Teaching Field Certification
Redesign Alternative Programs with Rehabilitative Focus
Instructional Framework Targeted for Specific Subgroup
Trauma-Informed Leading & Teaching
Alternative Programs for Non-Traditional Students
Standard-Based Grading
High-Leverage Practices for SPED
Equity-Centered Instruction
Youth Mental Health First Aid
Student Advisement Program

Bilingual Education
Teacher Mentoring
Student Mentoring
STEM/STEAM Certification
Johns Hopkins
Everyone Graduates Center
College Visits and Industry Tours
Early Warning System
AP Saturday Sessions
Dual Enrollment
Neuhaus (K-8)
AVID
CHAMPS
UDL
BARR