



## START-UP AND IMPLEMENTATION GRANT--INNOVATION

### INTRODUCTION

As part of the Charter School Start-Up and Implementation Grants, which are Utah State Charter School Board (SCSB) grants, “Innovation Grants” aim to foster innovation and creativity within Utah’s charter schools. Recognizing the unique position of charter schools in pioneering educational reforms and approaches, these grants seek to support innovation by providing financial assistance ranging from \$10,000 to \$50,000. The grants intend to empower schools to implement innovative projects that can serve as models for educational excellence statewide.

SCSB staff are eager to discuss proposals before submission and will provide transparent feedback and guidance that values schools’ time and effort. Our goal is to shepherd applications through our process step-by-step. The process will be mutually beneficial for SCSB staff and applicants because of the strong relationships built through our collaborative process.

### GRANT OBJECTIVES

- Enhance Educational Practices and Models: Support the development and implementation of innovative teaching methods, educational practices, and models.
- Promote Student Engagement and Success: Fund projects aimed at increasing student engagement, learning outcomes, and overall success.
- Support Professional Development: Provide resources for professional development opportunities for teachers and staff to implement innovative strategies.
- Support School Choice: Encourage innovation that meets the learning needs of diverse students, such as at-risk, underserved, non-traditional, etc.
- Foster Parental Involvement: Encourage initiatives that enhance the involvement of parents and the community in the educational process.
- Inspire Replicable Models of Innovation: Back projects that have the potential to serve as replicable models for other schools across the state and nation.

### ELIGIBILITY

- The applicant must be a charter school located in Utah, authorized by SCSB, and must meet the requirements of Rule R277-554-2.

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- Projects should focus on implementing a new curriculum, implementing a new program, or implementing a new practice not funded by the Innovative Sandbox funding as described in Rule R277-919.
- Grants will be awarded by LEA, as one-time funding.

### BREAKDOWN OF PROCESS

The SCSB is committed to ensuring the broadest possible awareness of this grant opportunity. To achieve this, the SCSB will disseminate information about the grant in a timely and widespread manner, leveraging multiple communication channels. These will include, but are not limited to, our official website, social media platforms, email newsletters, and partnerships with local organizations. We aim to reach all potential charter LEAs eligible to apply, ensuring equitable access to this funding opportunity. The SCSB's proactive approach to information dissemination is designed to maximize participation and ensure that charter schools across Utah are well-informed and able to benefit from the grant program.

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#### STAGE 1: NOTICE OF INTENT

LEAs interested in applying must submit a Notice of Intent (NOI) to apply, briefly outlining their project idea and goals.

A one-page NOI should briefly summarize the project, its budget, goals, and timeline. For more information and to ask questions, attend a grant information session online: Start-Up and Implementation Grants 101.

The NOI serves to establish the basic elements of the proposal before application. SCSB staff will collaborate with applicants and apply many perspectives to each inquiry received. SCSB staff will synthesize feedback and questions, provide guidance, and collect additional information to help inform the application process.

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#### STAGE 2: PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

If SCSB staff believe there is sufficient alignment between the proposal and the SCSB's grant objectives, they will offer schools an opportunity to apply. The application process will include:

- Project narrative
- Project goals
- Budget
- Expected outcomes
- Other documents as applicable

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### STAGE 3: REVIEW AND SELECTION

The SCSB grant committee will review all applications and approve or decline requests on an ongoing basis until funds are allocated. The grant committee will meet monthly or as needed to review applications and make recommendations.

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### STAGE 4: IMPLEMENTATION

SCSB staff will work with grant recipients to outline the next steps. Grant recipients will join a cohort of their peers who were also awarded the grant. As a community, recipients will participate in events. Grant recipients may be asked to present at conferences or other events.

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### STAGE 5: PROJECT COMPLETION REPORTING

Upon completion of the project, a brief written report of the project will be submitted. This narrative will outline the outcomes of the project and any relevant takeaways that can be shared with other stakeholders. The deadline will be determined by the scope and nature of the project.

## USE OF FUNDS

Funds can be used for:

- Curriculum development and instructional materials.
- Professional development and training for teachers.
- Technology integration into the classroom.
- Initiatives to engage parents and the community.
- Evaluation and dissemination of project results.
- Other Innovative projects.

Funds cannot be used for:

- Construction or renovation of facilities.
- Salaries or benefits for existing staff (though stipends for additional responsibilities related to the project are allowable).
- Activities not directly related to the proposed project.

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### CONTACT INFORMATION

For further details and inquiries regarding the application process, eligibility, or project ideas, please contact:

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Strategic Growth and Innovation Specialist  
Utah State Charter School Board  
Email: [amy.pace@schools.utah.gov](mailto:amy.pace@schools.utah.gov)

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### Utah SCSB Innovation Grant - Selection Rubric

Evaluate the applicant on each criterion on a scale of 1 to 5:

1 = Strong “No” to the rubric guidelines

3 = “Maybe” or “Not sure based on the info I have” to the rubric guidelines

5 = Strong “Yes” to the rubric guidelines

Criteria	Strengthen the Core	Innovation
<b>Creativity:</b> What is novel in the approach?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implements incremental improvements to practices commonly found in many schools.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Challenges the status quo and explores unconventional approaches to education</li> </ul>
<b>Impact:</b> What will be better because of it?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Demonstrates the potential to create tangibly better outcomes, efficiency, or processes within 2-3 years.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduces groundbreaking ideas with the potential to reshape fundamental aspects of education landscape.</li> </ul>
<b>Feasibility</b> How achievable and risky is it?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shows that the change can be sustained over time with their talent, organizational capacity, and resources.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shows capacity to develop necessary capabilities and manage risks involved with boundary pushing, such as team focus and changing ways of working.</li> </ul>
<b>Learning</b> How will other charter schools' benefit from it?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Addresses a relevant problem for others in the charter sector.</li> <li>Offers valuable insights for others and has potential for adoption by other networks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Addresses a relevant problem for others in the charter sector.</li> <li>Has potential to uncover new insights that push our perception of what is possible in education</li> </ul>