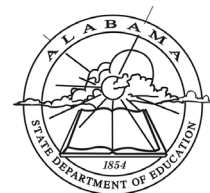




STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Eric G. Mackey, Ed.D.
State Superintendent of Education

September 14, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO: City and County Superintendents of Education

FROM: Eric G. Mackey 
State Superintendent of Education

RE: Gifted Student Grant Program Act 2026-380

According to Act No. 2026-380, the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) will offer grants to local education agencies (LEAs) to develop new advanced educational and specialized programs for gifted students. For the 2026-2027 school year, over \$2.454 million will be available to LEAs through a competitive grant process.

The ALSDE will award grants to public schools for the purpose of initiating new programs or continuing existing programs to offer advanced and specialized educational services to gifted children. The maximum award is \$30,000 per applicant. If awarded, grant funds will be budgeted for the Fiscal Year 2027. The LEAs are responsible for ensuring that staff members receiving tuition assistance through the grant remain employed by the LEA for a specified period of time. In addition, LEAs must match up to five percent (5%) of any grant funds awarded by the ALSDE under this act.

To access the attached applications for Gifted Student Grant Program, click on this link: [2026-2027 Gifted Student Grant Program](#).

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. AlFreda Pruitt or Mrs. Ashley Strickland by telephone at 334-694-4782.

EGM/AS/TZK

Attachments

cc: City and County Special Education Coordinators
City and County Gifted Coordinators
Mrs. Angela Martin
Mr. Arthur Watts, Jr.
Mrs. Shanthia Washington

Dr. DaLee Chambers
Mrs. Erika Richburg
Mrs. Patrice Harvill
Mrs. AlFreda Pruitt
Mrs. Ashley Strickland

FY26-2043

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Special Education Services Application Package for Gifted Student Grant Program

State Funding (Pursuant to *Education Trust Fund (ETF) Appropriations Act No. 2026-380*)

State Funds: Alabama Fiscal Year (FY) 2027

Authorizing Statute: Based on recent legislation, Act No. 2026-380, the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) will offer grants to local education agencies (LEAs) for the purpose of developing new advanced educational and specialized programs for gifted children.

Appropriation: \$2,454,687 for FY 2027

Who is Eligible to Apply: All Alabama public school systems

Funding Availability: The maximum award for an applicant is \$30,000

Deadline for Grant Application: 4 p.m. on October 16, 2026

The funding options are as follows:

- **Option 1: Program Proposals**

Program Proposals relate to items utilized in the gifted classroom and with gifted learners.

Examples of program proposals include, but are not limited to, concept-based curriculum, affective/foundational wellness, differentiation, college and career readiness, and/or field study experiences related to concept-based units of study.

- **Option 2: Administrative Proposals**

Administrative Proposals relate to administrative needs.

Examples of administrative proposals include, but are not limited to, grants for pursuing gifted certification, professional development, contract personnel, screening materials, and/or acceleration needs.

For consideration in the award allocation of these funds, it is imperative that the LEA follows all application requirements.

These funds are awarded for FY 2027 and are available from October 1, 2026, through September 30, 2027, with the official effective date designated upon award. All funds awarded must be expended by September 30, 2027, and are not automatically awarded in subsequent years.

If you have questions or need clarification, please contact the ALSDE, Special Education Services (SES) Section, by email at alfreda.pruitt@alsde.edu or ashley.strickland@alsde.edu or by telephone at 334-694-4782.

Application Submission Deadlines Via DocuSign (Electronic Submission Date By)
Application Deadline: - October 16, 2026 Tentative Acceptance Notification: - November 30, 2026

Reporting Requirements: A final analysis and evaluation **must** be submitted that summarizes the outcomes and Evidence of Success that is documented in the Evaluation.

Rejection of Proposals: The ALSDE reserves the right to reject all proposals as a result of this announcement and will do so if the proposal does not adhere to funding specifications or application preparation.

Purpose: The purpose of this grant is to support public schools in the development of new advanced educational and specialized programs or continuing programs for gifted children in Grades K-12.

Grant Criteria: The grant will be funded based on consideration of the following criteria:

- Grants should be awarded to programs specifically targeted towards gifted children that meet the *Alabama Administrative Code* criteria.
- The quality of the proposed curriculum, qualifications of persons acting as instructors, and integration with the infrastructure of the school must be a primary consideration.
- Preference is given to programs that are offered during the traditional school day or, alternatively, to programs that provide after-school transportation.
- Preference must be given to programs that explicitly provide for the encouragement of participation by students from traditionally underserved populations.
- All programs awarded grants pursuant to this act must provide a means for assessing the impact of the program on participating students' academic growth.
- The local board of education shall match up to five percent (5%) of any grant funds awarded by the department under this act.

School and Student Participation

If your LEA uses the *Alabama Administrative Code* criteria to identify students for gifted services, state this clearly.

If your school/district identifies students for Enrichment Model services that do not meet the criteria please provide a description of the process, procedures, tools/measures, and criteria.

Provide a brief description of the population of students that will benefit from this project. State the number of schools, grade levels, and number of students at each grade level.

Please do not include names of districts, schools, or specific locations.

LEA Plan for Gifted

Check whether the LEA has a current ALSDE approved LEA Plan for Gifted on file with the ALSDE.

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YES. The LEA has a current LEA Plan for Gifted in place.

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NO. The LEA does not have a current LEA Plan for Gifted in place.

Budget

1. Provide a detailed budget narrative for the proposed project. Clearly indicate how the project costs were calculated. Use state guidelines for expenditures.
2. Complete the Budget Summary Form. The proposed budget should match the total in the budget narrative.

SECTION 1: LEA APPLICANT INFORMATION

Proposal Title:

Applicant Name:

Applicant Email:

Amount Requested:

Local Education Agency:

LEA Code:

LEA Mailing Address:

Superintendent:

Email Address:

Telephone Number:

Gifted Coordinator:

Email Address:

Telephone Number:

Chief School Financial Officer:

Email Address:

Telephone Number:

Signature of Superintendent

Date

Signature of Gifted Coordinator

Date

Signature of Chief School Financial Officer

Date

Selected Option

The LEA may choose to complete multiple applications for Options 1 and 2, as appropriate. Each application shall be submitted for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2027.

Select one option per application:

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Option 1: Program Proposals

Program Proposals relate to items utilized in the gifted classroom and with gifted learners.

- Examples of program proposals include, but are not limited to, concept-based curriculum, affective/foundational wellness, differentiation, college and career readiness, and/or field study experiences related to concept-based units of study.

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Option 2: Administrative Proposals

Administrative Proposals relate to administrative needs.

- Examples of administrative proposals include, but are not limited to, grants for pursuing gifted certification, professional development, contract personnel, screening materials, and/or acceleration needs.

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Previously funded

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Previously submitted, but not funded

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New application

Additional Information

SECTION 2: PROGRAM/ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

A. For Option 1: Program Proposals, provide the following information:

Summary: In the space below, provide a title for your project, and a one paragraph summary of your proposal, describing what you are planning to do, and how you are planning to do it. State whether this is a new project or an expansion of an existing project. Provide the percentage of underrepresented gifted students that will be participating in your project. If you received a gifted grant in the past, state whether a final analysis and evaluation report was submitted by the deadline stated in the application packet.

Student Needs Statement: Discuss the needs of your students (e.g., student interests, affective needs, creative or academic needs) and how the proposed project will address those needs. The needs statement should be brief but include the demographics of your community that could impact the learning opportunities and needs in your school or LEA. Include items such as the local industries/career opportunities, socio-economic status, rural vs urban location, and ethnic make-up. Please do not list any district names, school names, or names of school staff in your descriptions.

Quality of Project: Explain where and how this project fits into a concept-based unit of study designed to meet the needs of gifted students and state the essential understanding(s). Your description should address the importance of the field of knowledge, rigor, and other specific needs of gifted learners. You should also address how the project provides opportunities for creative expression.

If your project does not follow the concept-based curriculum model, state the alternative model, and explain how it addresses the importance of the field of knowledge, rigor, and other specific needs of gifted students. You should also address how the project provides opportunities for creative expression.

Student Outcomes and Learning Opportunities and Evaluation: Use Attachment A (for Program Proposals only) to list the Alabama Gifted Standards and Student Outcomes that will be addressed in your project, and the learning opportunities that best connect with them. List a few of the major learning opportunities in sequential order, providing a snapshot of how students will progress through the unit of study associated with this project. List the costs associated with the project. Provide the evidence and artifacts (e.g., pre and post inventories, journaling, lab notes, teacher observation, artifacts, rubrics) that will be used to measure student outcomes and how they will be analyzed.

Return on Investment (ROI): Briefly explain how your project will provide a good return on investment. In your explanation state:

- The potential long-term effects this project will have on students (e.g., student motivation, affective development, skills development, preparedness for future work force). If your project includes an expensive out-of-state field study experience, explain why this experience cannot be provided in a less expensive way.
- How the project will build school capacity to sustain services for students with gifts (e.g., reusable materials and equipment).

B. For Option 2: Administrative Proposals, provide the following information:

Summary: In the space below, provide a title for your project, and a one paragraph summary of your proposal. Address the following questions: Are you planning to add a contract person to help with second grade Child Find, or to help an existing teacher in another way? If you would like to purchase screening/identification materials, summarize how those screening/identification materials will be utilized? Provide the percentage of underrepresented gifted students that will be participating in your project if you add a gifted unit. Provide the percentage of underrepresented students that will be assessed if funds will be used for second grade Child Find or identification for gifted services. If you received a gifted grant in the past, state whether a final analysis and evaluation report was submitted by the deadline stated in the application packet.

Administrative Needs Statement: Add a needs statement to address how the Administrative Grant will impact learning opportunities in your school or LEA. Include items such as local industries, socio-economic status, and community make-up. Do not list school names.

Return on Investment (ROI): Briefly explain how your project will provide a good return on investment. In your explanation address how the project will build school capacity to sustain services for students with gifts. Include any applicable areas. Possible areas:

- Reusable materials and equipment.
- Assurance statement from teacher that he or she will remain in gifted position for a specified amount of time if receiving funds for certification.
- Assurance statement that the teacher will check with the ALSDE Teacher Certification Section concerning approved programs before beginning coursework.
- Assurance that the professional development being planned is appropriate for gifted teachers.

Budget Summary Form

FY 2027

Revenue Code = 1286; Program Code = 2800; Fund Source = 1286

Function Code	Object Code	Description	Budget (Round to whole dollars.)
1100	014	Salaries – Gifted Teacher	\$ _____
		Benefits: (As applicable)	_____
1100	230	Social Security (6.2%)	_____
1100	240	Medicare (1.45%)	_____
1100	220	Retirement (14.66% Tier I, 13.70% Tier II)	_____
1100	250	Unemployment Compensation (LEA's individual rate)	_____
1100	382	In-State Travel	_____
1100	311	Student Education Services	_____
2215	312	Purchased Services - Staff Educational Services	_____
2215	319	Purchased Services - Other Professional Educational Services	_____
1100	411	Student Classroom Supplies	_____
1100	414	Instructional Software	_____
1100	491	Instructional Equipment (Less than \$5,000 per unit)	_____
1100	495	Computer Hardware (Less than \$5,000 per unit)	_____
1100	589	Other Equipment (Capital Outlay)	_____
	623	Registration Fees	_____
Total			\$ _____

MATCH INFORMATION

Use Special Use Code 0038 – Gifted Student Competitive Grant Match

ATTACHMENT A PROGRAM PROPOSAL USE ONLY

Use the table provided to list the applicable student outcomes (from the Alabama Gifted Standards and Student Outcomes Document). Describe the learning opportunities connected to the student outcomes that your project will provide. Next, describe the evidence you will use to prove the outcomes were achieved and the methods to analyze this (e.g., compare pre\post inventory, student surveys, teacher observation, journaling, lab notes, artifacts, rubrics).

Student Outcome <i>(See Alabama Gifted Standards and Student Outcomes Document)</i>	Learning Opportunity	Estimated Costs	Evaluation: Evidence & Methods