



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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

Alabama
State Board
of Education

October 20, 2021

MEMORANDUM

Governor Kay Ivey
President

TO: City and County Superintendents of Education

Jackie Zeigler
District I

FROM: Eric G. Mackey *EGM*
State Superintendent of Education

Tracie West
District II

SUBJECT: The Creating High Achieving Networks and Cultivating Excellence (CHANCE) Competitive Grant

Stephanie Bell
District III

Attached is the application packet for a newly established competitive grant for the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 school year. The Creating High Achieving Networks and Cultivating Excellence (CHANCE) Competitive Grant will support and encourage schools to implement innovative activities and practices that focus on creating educational opportunities.

Eligible schools must fall into one of the following categories:

Yvette M. Richardson, Ed.D.
District IV
Vice President

- **Comprehensive Support & Improvement (CSI)**
Schools who fall into the bottom 6% of Title 1 schools and those schools with a graduation rate below 67% or 10 percentage points below the state average (based on 2018-2019 support school list).
- **Additional Targeted Support & Improvement (ATSI)**
Schools where one or more sub-groups perform at or below the performance for “all students” in the lowest-performing schools (based on 2018-2019 support school list).
- **Graduation Rate/Career Readiness Gap (GRCRG)**
Schools with a gap of 25 points or greater between the graduation rate and College and Career Readiness Rate (based on 2019-2020 data).

Tonya S. Chestnut, Ed.D.
District V

Cynthia McGarty, Ph.D.
District VI

Schools interested in applying for the grant should complete the application, and email it by Thursday, November 18, 2021, to CHANCEapps@alsde.edu.

Belinda McRae
District VII

If you need assistance or have questions about the grant, please send an email to CHANCEapps@alsde.edu.

Wayne Reynolds, Ed.D.
District VIII
President Pro Tem

EGM/MK/JRE

Attachment

Eric G. Mackey, Ed.D.
Secretary and
Executive Officer

FY22-2007

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 educational 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 three-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	ATSI	GRCRG
<p>Comprehensive Support & Improvement</p>	<p>Additional Targeted Support & Improvement</p>	<p>Graduation Rate/Career Readiness Gap</p>
<p><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: 2018-2019 support school list)</i></p>	<p><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: 2018-2019 support school list)</i></p>	<p><i>Any school with a gap of 25 points or more between the Graduation Rate and College & Career Readiness Rate (Source: 2019-2020 data)</i></p>

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 five (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

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 Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, and Time-bound (SMART), 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.

for the period of School Year (SY) 2022, SY 2023, and SY 2024. Additionally, identify intended strategies for communications with and among school(s), the ALSDE, and any stakeholders.

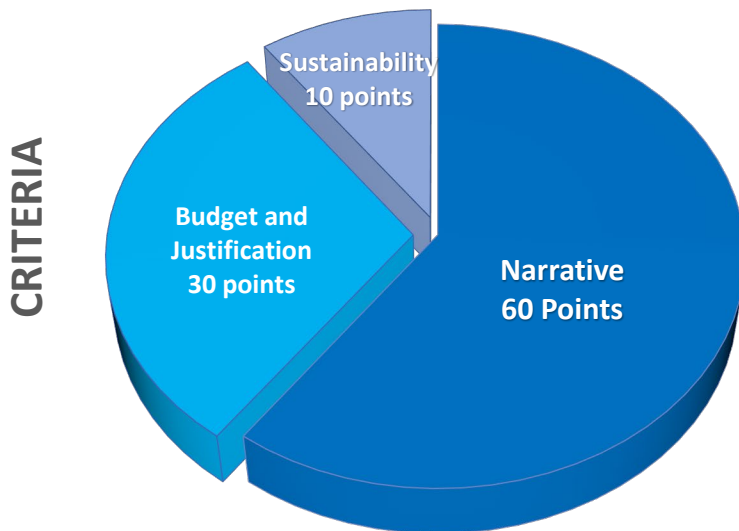
- c. **Innovative Approach (15 points)**—describe the implementation of promising activities and practices that build on, or are alternatives to, existing approaches that create educational opportunities for students.

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 SY 2022, SY 2023, and SY 2024.

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



5348 Gordon Persons Building, Montgomery, AL 36130
 (telephone) 334-694-4516 | (email) CHANCEapps@alsde.edu

CHANCE COMPETITIVE GRANT

PART A: Cover Sheet

Check all that apply <input type="radio"/> CSI (Comprehensive Support & Improvement) <input type="radio"/> ATSI (Additional Targeted Support & Improvement) <input type="radio"/> GRCRG (Graduation Rate/Career Readiness Gap)	Name of School
Principal's Name 	Principal's Email
Mailing Address (Street Number, City, State, and Zip Code) 	
Telephone Number 	Today's Date

I certify to the best of my knowledge and belief, all the information in this application is true and correct. I further understand that knowingly making a false statement or misrepresentation on this application may subject me to criminal or civil penalties under applicable state and federal laws.

Principal (Typed Name): 	Principal's Signature:
District Contact Person (Typed Name): 	District Contact Person's Signature:
Superintendent (Typed Name): 	Superintendent's Signature:

Provide one point of contact who shall be responsible for submitting documentation to the Department for the purposes of managing the fiscal oversight of the program on behalf of the Applicant.

Name: _____

Email Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Please email completed applications to CHANCEapps@alsde.edu by **November 18, 2021**. For questions contact CHANCEapps@alsde.edu.

ALSDE Internal Use Only

Date Application Received: _____

Date ALSDE Approved: _____

Funding Source: _____

Amount Awarded: _____

 ALSDE Federal Programs Director

 Date

 State Superintendent or Designee Signature

 Date

Part B: Grant Narrative

<p>Project Description and Justification</p>

Goals/Objectives (Timeline/Benchmarks)

Timeline	Goal/Purpose	Description of Activity and Participants	Deliverable/Product	Measurement, Benchmark of Success

<p>Innovative Approach</p>

Part D: Budget and Budget Justification

Budget Information: Provide an itemized budget. The budget and budget justification do count toward the five (5)-page limit for the project description and narrative and must match with the goals and objectives of the proposal. A competitive budget is one that will provide the ALSDE with a complete financial picture of the proposed project and reflect all the anticipated costs of the project.

The budget and budget justification must be for SY 2022, SY 2023, and SY 2024. Budgets are reviewed to verify if the costs are reasonable and necessary to carry out the proposed project and if it conforms to the purpose of CHANCE.

Format: Applicants are encouraged to develop a budget grid; however, depending on the objective(s) of the grant, an applicant may choose a different format. In either case, applicants must provide an itemized and coherent budget based upon the needs identified in the grant.

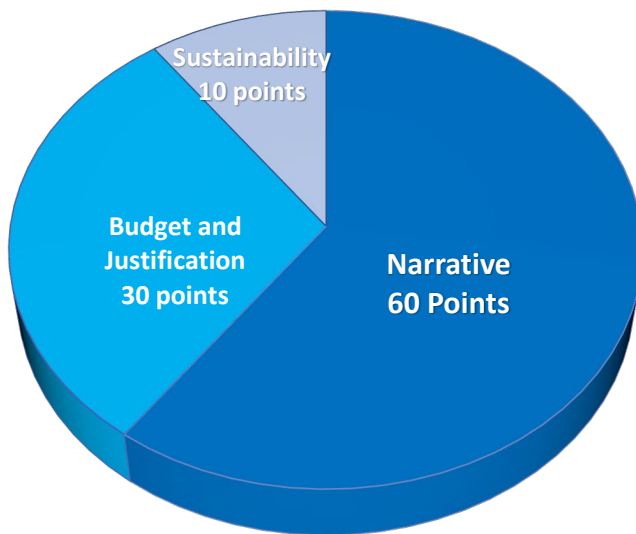
Budget Justification: Provide a detailed budget justification. Include rationale for proposed costs.

Part E: Sustainability

CHANCE Competitive Grant mandates that applicants create a preliminary sustainability plan to show how their plans will continue after CHANCE Competitive Grant funding ends. The sustainability should include collaborative partnerships that will contribute to developing a vision and plan for financial capacity to support, and eventually sustain, the program after the three-year grant funding ends. The plan must include a specific description of the investments (time, capital, contributions, etc.) that each partner will make to the program. The sustainability plan should be a fluid document and expands throughout the life of the program. This plan should be continually updated, easily assessable, and available for inspection by the ALSDE.

Scoring Criteria

Each criterion is weighted. We offer the following as a guide to assist you.



Remember

Project Description & Justification	20 points
Goals/Objectives	25 points
Innovative Approach	<u>15 points</u>
Narrative	60 points

SCHOOL ASSURANCES

Applicant assures that its application does not contain any request to waive the following Title I, Part A, or ESSA General Assurances:

Title I, Part A

The LEA plan for the implementation of Title I, Part A was developed in consultation with teachers, principals, other school leaders, paraprofessionals, specialized instructional support personnel, charter school leaders (in a local educational agency that has charter schools), administrators (including administrators of programs described in other parts of this title), other appropriate school personnel, and with parents of children in schools served under this part.

The plan for Title I, Part A, coordinates with other programs under this Act, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.), the *Rehabilitation Act of 1973* (20 U.S.C. 701 et seq.), the *Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006* (20 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.), the *Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act* (29 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.), the *Head Start Act* (42 U.S.C. 9831 et seq.), the *McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act* (42 U.S.C. 11301 et seq.), the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (29 U.S.C. 3271 et seq.), and other Acts as appropriate.

The LEA has a plan for assisting schools to develop capacity to comply with program operation and for providing additional educational assistance to students needing help to achieve state standards, including: The use of schoolwide programs; Steps to ensure that both schoolwide program and targeted assisted program schools have qualified staff (Section 1112); Assessments results are used by schools and teachers to improve achievement (Section 1112); and School choice and supplemental education services options (Section 1111).

The LEA has a Parent and Family Engagement policy and plan as required in Section 1116 and ensures that all requirements in Section 1116 and 1112(e), Parents' Right-to-Know, are implemented systematically.

The LEA has a strategy for ensuring that children served by Title I, Part A, will be taught the same knowledge and skills in all subjects and held to the same academic achievement expectations as all children.

The LEA will ensure annual assessment of English language proficiency for all limited-English proficient students.

The LEA will ensure that assessment results are promptly provided to schools, teachers, and parents.

The LEA will ensure that each school the local educational agency proposes to serve will receive all the State and local funds it would have received in the absence of funds received under Section 1003 A.

ESSA General Assurances

Each ESSA program will be administered in accordance with all applicable statutes, regulations, program plans, and applications.

The LEA will assure the control of funds provided under each ESSA program and title to property acquired with program funds will be in a public agency, an eligible private agency, institution, or organization, or an Indian tribe, if the law authorizing the program provides for assistance to those entities.

The LEA will administer those funds and property to the extent required by the authorizing law.

The LEA will assure adoption and use proper methods of administering each ESSA program, including—The enforcement of any obligations imposed by law on agencies, institutions, organizations, and other recipients responsible for carrying out each ESSA program; The correction of deficiencies in program operations that are identified through audits, monitoring, or evaluation; and The adoption of written procedures for the receipt and resolution of complaints alleging violations of law in the administration of the programs.

The LEA will assure cooperation in carrying out any evaluation of each ESSA program conducted by the ALSDE or other federal officials.

The LEA will use fiscal control and fund accounting procedures as will ensure proper disbursement of, and accounting for, Federal funds paid to the LEA under each ESSA program.

The LEA will make reports to the ALSDE as may be necessary to enable the ALSDE to perform the required duties under each ESSA program.

The LEA will maintain such records, provide such information to the ALSDE, and afford such access to the records as the ALSDE may find necessary to carry out the ALSDE's duties.

Before the plan or application was submitted to the ALSDE, the LEA afforded a reasonable opportunity for public comment on the plan or application and considered such comment. Parents with students in schools served under Title I, Part A, have been afforded the opportunity to submit written dissenting views or opinions as an attachment to the LEA Consolidated Application.

The LEA will assure there are no policies or procedures that prevent, or otherwise deny participation in, constitutionally protected prayer in public schools as set forth in Title VIII, Section 8525 of ESSA and Guidance on Constitutionally Protected Prayer in Public Elementary and Secondary Schools.

The LEA will assure systematic compliance with requirements of the *Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act* (FERPA) and the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA) under 20 U.S.C., Section 1232(g) and 1232(h), respectively.

The LEA will assure systematic compliance with the Title VIII, Section 8528, requirement that secondary schools make student directory information available, upon request, to military recruiters unless parents of those students have opted out of providing such information.

The LEA will ensure that all federally funded preschool programs comply with standards established under 641 A (a) of the *Head Start Act*, if applicable.

Principal

Date

District Contact

Date

Superintendent

Date

RUBRIC

School: _____

LEA: _____

Criteria	Best Response	Score	Comments
<p>Project Description and Justification 20 points</p>	<p>A detailed project description and justification that includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed description of the project’s goal(s) and purpose and how these will be achieved with proposed educational activities and practices. • Connection to CHANCE Competitive Grant priorities that resulted in the school identification of CSI, ATSI, and GRCRG. • Addressed the rationale behind this project and how it will impact classrooms, school, district, and community (if applicable) and enable the applicant to reach the level of success proposed in the application. <p>Total Points for Project Description and Justification</p>	<p>_____/10</p> <p>_____/5</p> <p>_____/5</p> <p>_____/20</p>	
<p>Innovative Approach 15 points</p>	<p>A detailed description of how the project uses an innovative approach:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An assurance that the project does not conflict with existing or imminent school/district goals, technology initiatives, policies, or procedures. • Addresses specific need(s) and potential benefits of change are made clear. • Promotes with strong rationale innovative teaching/leadership methods apparent through description, proposal, goals and objectives, and evaluation methods. <p>Total Points for Innovative Approach</p>	<p>_____/5</p> <p>_____/5</p> <p>_____/5</p> <p>_____/15</p>	

RUBRIC

School: _____

LEA: _____

<p>Goals/Objectives 25 points</p>	<p>A detailed description of the Goals, Objectives, Project Timeline, and Benchmarks that include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A description of CHANCE Competitive Grant priorities that will be used to determine success including clearly defined SMART goals, numeric objectives, and specific outcomes. _____/5 • A project timeline with specific indicators of project success (benchmarks) at key points of the timeline. _____/5 • Clear picture of how data will be collected and used to demonstrate degree to which outcomes are met and plan's impact on school. _____/5 • Intended strategies for communications with and among school(s), the ALSDE, and any stakeholders to include monitoring. _____/10 <p>Total Points for Goals/Objectives _____/25</p>		
<p>Budget and Budget Justification 30 points</p>	<p>A detailed description of the Budget and Budget Justification that includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A project budget for anticipated funding up to \$_____. _____/10 • A budget justification that is clearly tied to the scope and requirements of the project. _____/10 • A fiscal agent with the capacity and experience to manage the financial requirements of the grant. _____/10 <p>Total Points for Budget and Budget Justification _____/30</p>		

RUBRIC

School: _____

LEA: _____

<p>Sustainability 10 points</p>	<p>A detailed description of how the work from this project will reach sustainability from LEA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Illustrates a thorough plan to sustain grant activities after the grant period. • Identify donors or sources of funds that can leverage the state and/or local funds and help to ensure the project is sustainable beyond the grant period. <p>Total Points for Sustainability</p>	<p>_____/5</p> <p>_____/5</p> <p>_____/10</p>	
<p>Total Score</p>	<p>Project Description and Justification</p> <p>Innovative Approach</p> <p>Goals/Objectives</p> <p>Budget and Budget Justification</p> <p>Sustainability</p> <p>Total Score</p>	<p>_____/20</p> <p>_____/15</p> <p>_____/25</p> <p>_____/30</p> <p>_____/10</p> <p>_____/100</p>	