

Reimagine School Systems Initiative

Grant Overview	2
Theory of Action	2
Key Grant Information	2
Application Process	2
Eligibility	3
Timing	3
Structure	3
Questions and LDOE Support	3
Potential Reimagine School Actions	3
Grant Amounts	5
Grant Sustainability	5
Additional Information about Reimagine School Actions	6
Grant Phase I Timeline and Deliverables	9
Intended Impact	10
Details on School System Participants	10
Participant Benefits	11
Technical Assistance Partner Commitments	11
School System Commitments	11
How to Apply	11
Questions	11
Grant Application	12
Guidance for System Interview: Reimagine School Action-Specific Questions	16

Grant Overview

The Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) is pleased to announce a funding opportunity for school systems across the state who are interested in bold, systemic change to improve access to high-quality schools for students and families. The Reimagine School Systems program will enable school systems to create new high-quality educational opportunities through innovative and sustainable Reimagine School Actions (as defined below) that are aligned to school system strategy and to community needs. Through this work, LDOE will offer funding and technical assistance that both builds a cohort of schools that can serve as statewide exemplars and builds school system and educator capacity for sustained school and system improvement.

Reimagine School Actions combine a deep belief in the possibility of student excellence with a shared commitment from staff and community to a coherent school model that meets the specific needs of students, families, and the school community. All of this important work will happen under the supervision of a school system and with a plan to sustain the model and achieve impactful results over time.

The Reimagine School Systems grant program gives Louisiana school systems the opportunity to innovate as they create this sustainable excellence in schools. There are multiple important ways to improve schools, including school improvement, school redesign, and Reimagine School Actions. The Reimagine School Actions supported by this grant are the boldest and most comprehensive strategies, though the other pathways are also important and are supported by other Louisiana Department of Education initiatives.

The Louisiana Department of Education is launching this program with \$35 million available to encourage school systems to think big and to truly reimagine their educational programs in ways that are transformative for students, families, and parish communities.

Theory of Action

We believe that if LDOE:

- Encourages school system innovation, in alignment with system strategy, to meet local needs
- Provides assistance to ensure that school systems have the capacity to plan and implement Reimagine School Actions

Then school systems will:

- Make bold decisions to best meet the needs of their local communities
- Implement new programs and structures in a sustainable way to make a positive impact on students and educators over the long term and that can serve as statewide exemplars

Key Grant Information

Application Process

1. Please reach out to jennifer.tuttleton@la.gov to set up an individualized conversation to ask questions about this grant program and indicate your school system's interest. This step does not obligate your system to apply in any way.
2. Please complete the application (below) in advance of the Inspire! round 2 submission deadline (December 16, 2021). Upload application directly in eGMS under section P5.3.1.
3. The Louisiana Department of Education will invite selected applicants to interview. Prior to the interview, systems will be provided additional information about the grant's selection criteria.
4. Following interviews, the Louisiana Department of Education will notify selected systems that they have received a grant.

Eligibility

- All Louisiana school systems are eligible to apply. Please contact Jennifer Tuttleton (jennifer.tuttleton@la.gov) with any questions or to discuss how this grant program may fit in with your school system's strategy.
- School systems may apply for multiple grants to plan and implement multiple Reimagine School Actions, but any school may only be part of one application.
- This program is competitive and not all applications will be funded. Applications will be assessed by LDOE; the full application scoring guide will be released prior to system interviews.

Timing

- Applications for Reimagine School Actions with a Fall 2023 implementation date will be prioritized in order to give systems sufficient time to prepare for high-quality implementation. Proposed Reimagine School Actions with a Fall 2022 implementation date may be considered if a system presents compelling evidence that previous strategic planning or other work means that it will be able to launch its effort successfully in 2022.

Structure

- Grant recipients will have funds distributed in two phases:
 - *Phase I (Planning)*: Initial funds to support high-quality planning for the chosen Reimagine School Action.
 - *Phase II (Implementation)*: Significant resources to support implementation of the plan developed in Phase I. Implementation funds will only be released to grantees who have received confirmation from the LDOE of meeting Phase I grant requirements.
- All recipients must identify a Project Coordinator (school system employee) who spends 50% or more of their time ensuring the grant's success. Grant funds will be designated to support project coordination.
- All recipients will receive technical assistance from experienced education organizations that will support strong planning and implementation. These technical assistance providers will be paid from grant funds awarded to school systems and will be held by LDOE to a high standard of excellence.
- Grant sustainability is a high priority for this program (please see page 5 for additional information). Systems planning to pursue a Reimagine School Action with a strong sustainability plan as defined below will receive meaningful bonus points in the application review.

Questions and LDOE Support

- As mentioned above, interested school systems should reach out to jennifer.tuttleton@la.gov to set up an individualized conversation to ask questions about this grant program and indicate their interest. LDOE is also willing to provide support to systems as they think through potential Reimagine School Actions that may be a good fit, and LDOE will provide more information about this support in the individualized conversation.

Potential Reimagine School Actions

School system applicants must choose one or more Reimagine School Actions to pursue during the planning and implementation stages of this grant. Please see page 6 for examples of how school systems across the country have successfully implemented the potential Reimagine School Actions below. Grantees should be prepared to demonstrate how proposed Reimagine School Actions will increase educational opportunity for underserved students in the application.

The planning phase of that grant is intended to help prepare for excellent implementation and ensure that a system's Reimagine School Action is embedded in a coherent and well-monitored strategic plan, developed in conversation with community, and grounded in data and research.

The Reimagine School Actions are:



Replication: Identify a high-performing school currently existing in the school system with a dynamic leader and replicate that program at one or more additional sites. One leader will supervise similar programs at multiple school sites.



Expansion: Identify a high-performing school with a dynamic leader and dramatically increase the number of students served by the school, often by expanding the ages of students served by that school. For example, a successful elementary school program may expand its enrollment as it becomes a PK-8 school. At least 3 grade levels must be added to be eligible in this category. The school may expand by one grade per year.



Rural Collaboration: Two or more rural parishes apply with a plan for sharing significant educational resources (but not consolidating) so that students have access to greater opportunities.



School Model Innovation: Identify a school system need and a model that meets that need (e.g., early college, dual language instruction, Montessori education), and create a new school system school. This school may replace an existing school or be an entirely new school and the school may launch one grade level at a time.



Restart/Turnaround: Work with an existing education organization with a developed model and experience transforming struggling schools to dramatically improve a low-performing school. The turnaround may be whole-school or one grade at a time.



Innovation Cluster: Three or more schools in a school system with shared interests, such as a common feeder pattern or a consistent model or program, develop a formal collaborative relationship.



Student Reassignment / School Reconfiguration: A school system reassigns students from a low-performing school to a high-performing school, or reorganizes the structure of multiple schools. For example, a school system with two PK-5 schools may reorganize one as a PK-2 school and one as a 3-5 school. In the case of reassignment, this action must include a significant percentage of students moving to a higher-performing school.



Wraparound Model: A school system completely redesigns a school, or set of schools, by providing and coordinating wraparound services to students and families in collaboration with community organizations, such as a vision clinic, mental health service center, and food pantry. In addition to the community collaboration included in this Reimagine Schools Action, the campus will make significant improvements to the academic experience for students.



Year-round Calendar: One or more schools move to a year-round academic calendar to extend learning for students.



Local Innovation: School systems may apply to plan and implement a locally-developed, bold plan to transform how students are served at one or more schools.

Grant Amounts

Reimagine School Systems is initially a \$35 million grant program. The entirety of this funding will flow from the Louisiana Department of Education to school school systems, though school systems will reserve a portion of the funding for required technical assistance.

School systems may receive multiple grants, though they may not receive more than one grant for the same school.

Grant funds will be released in two primary phases: Phase I, the planning portion of the grant, and Phase II, the implementation portion of the grant. The Louisiana Department of Education will not release Phase II funding until the grantee has met key Phase I milestones.

Phase	Funding Amount
Phase I: Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Up to \$350,000• 25% of grant award reserved for required technical assistance• Any Phase I money that is not spent by the time Phase I milestones are completed may be used during Phase II
Phase II: Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Grants are generally up to \$1.5 million each, with even larger grant awards potentially available for particularly bold and compelling Reimagine School Actions• The size of the grant award will depend on factors such as the selected Reimagine School Action, the number of students served by the proposed School Action, and whether the school system is entering into a Memorandum of Understanding to promote sustainability• Up to 15% of grant award reserved for required technical assistance

*For all actions, grantees will be required to demonstrate intentional and effective planning in Phase I, and meet key milestones specific to the grantee's selected Reimagine School Action, in order for the LDOE to release Phase II funding

**Grant awards will vary based on the school action selected and the number of students projected to be impacted by the grant

Grant Sustainability

The Louisiana Department of Education is making significant investments across the state, in programs such as this one and the Strong School Systems initiative, because it believes in the power of reimagined school systems to nurture and support outstanding, innovative schools. One challenge for educators is the uncertainty they can face when they fear that changes in system strategy in the future may mean that their school will have to change course in significant ways, even if what the school is doing is serving students effectively.

LDOE is committed to ensuring that successful Reimagine School Actions supported by this grant can continue to thrive over the long haul. School transformation initiatives are more sustainable when the school has a formal structure for preserving and adapting the school model to meet the needs of the local school community as long as it meets system-defined performance criteria. That commitment to a sustainable solution must be reciprocal -- it is essential that school systems retain their ability to successfully serve all their students, not just students attending schools that are part of this grant program. While schools participating in the grant program should have meaningful financial flexibility, school systems must be able to reasonably sustain services for all schools so that the school system can operate effectively.

One way to help sustain the continuity of Reimagine School Actions, while also clarifying the ways in which the school will function as a school within the context of the broader school system, is to create a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that clarifies roles and responsibilities for implementing the grant. Under this MOU, the school system establishes performance expectations and clarifies decision-making rights for the school system and school and helps support implementation of the model associated with the grant's selected Reimagine School Action.

Such an MOU, which is a required component for some but not all Reimagine School Actions, allows for specialized support while deepening the sense of community ownership over the innovative Reimagine School Action supported by this grant. The MOU is entered into between the system and a nonprofit partner organization. Potential nonprofit partners that could enter into the MOU with the school system include:

- A newly-created community support organization
 - This organization would be formed for the purpose of sustainably ensuring the success of the school action described in this grant into the future.
 - To ensure alignment with the school system's strategy and facilitate continued partnership, the organization can include school system representatives on its board as long as the majority of board members are not school system representatives.
 - New organizations must have applied for Internal Revenue Service recognition as a nonprofit but need not have received approval at the time the contract with the school system is signed.
 - An example of this type of partnership is the Consortium Partnership Network in St. Louis, Missouri.
- Existing community support organization
 - Such an organization should have credibility in the community and be committed to the success of the schools and the school system.
 - In Waco, Texas, for example, the school system worked with a community empowerment nonprofit called Prosper Waco before Prosper Waco spun out a new, education-focused nonprofit called Transformation Waco.
- Existing education organization
 - In Midland, Texas, for example, the school system partnered with Third Future Schools, an organization with a strong track record of improving academic achievement.
- Institution of higher education
 - The Fort Worth Independent School school system had a longstanding positive relationship with Texas Wesleyan University, a local institution of higher education. Together, they launched the Leadership Academy Network to deepen and strengthen this partnership.

All organizations would be required to be Louisiana-based nonprofits.

Additional Information about Reimagine School Actions

Replication -- Identify a high-performing school with a dynamic leader that currently exists in the school system and replicate this program

Example: *Dr. Cynthia Wise was a successful principal in Longview, TX who developed her own school model called Culture Conscious Campus. This model focuses on four specific elements of strong school culture along with high academic expectations. Because of Dr. Wise's work using this model, the Texas Commissioner of Education recognized her school as the highest-performing predominantly African-American school in Texas. This success led Dr. Wise to form a dedicated nonprofit that now works with multiple school system campuses to implement the Culture Conscious Campus model. As the leader of the nonprofit, Dr. Wise supports principals as they implement the model and has a dedicated nonprofit board to be an advocate for her work and provide specialized expertise.*

- One leader will supervise similar programs at two school sites

- School systems that elect to enter into a MOU with a nonprofit organization that supports both schools are eligible for greater funding due to the costs of implementing this model successfully and because of the higher likelihood of sustainability

Expansion -- Identify a high-performing school with a dynamic leader that currently exists in the school and expand the gradespan served by that school

Example: Rise Academy at Van Sickle Middle School in Springfield, Massachusetts, was a new middle school with a unique model focused on student empowerment and high academic standards. As the initial Rise class entered 8th grade, students and families expressed disappointment at not being able to continue with the same innovative academic and cultural program. Anna Breen, the principal of Rise, worked with the school system to expand the new school so that Rise Prep (a high school) could serve as an extension of the school on the same campus. Breen supervises the whole 6-12 school and has been able to build strong ties with her students, family, and staff through the continuation of the Rise program through the end of high school.

- For example, a successful elementary school program may expand its enrollment as it becomes a PK-8 school
- At least 50% greater enrollment capacity or 3 grade levels must be added to be eligible in this category
- The school may expand by one grade per year
- School systems that elect to enter into a MOU with a nonprofit organization that supports the expanded school are eligible for greater funding due to the costs of implementing this model successfully and because of the higher likelihood of sustainability

Rural Collaboration -- Two or more rural parishes apply with a plan for sharing significant educational resources (but not consolidating) so that students have access to greater opportunities

Example: The Rural Schools Innovation Zone (RSIZ) is a unique, first-of-its-kind partnership designed to serve rural students in South Texas (between Corpus Christi and Laredo). This collaboration brings together three school systems and includes close partnership with both three institutions of higher education and regional workforce partners to offer students access to marly college programming and career-specific high school experiences. Although the three school systems are extremely small and resource-constrained, now all students at any school have access to the following academic programs:



Ignite Technical Institute – Brooks County ISD Career and Technical Institute
Prepares students for college and career with a focus in welding, construction, electrical and heavy equipment operations



Citizens Battalion Naval JROTC – Brooks County ISD
Prepares students for college and career with the opportunity to build leadership, character, and community service that can be applied to a military career or any career pathway that a student chooses.



Next Generation Medical Academy – Freer ISD Health Science Academy
Prepares students for college and career with a focus in health science such as a certified nurse assistant, patient care technician, or a licensed vocational or registered nurse.



Grow Your Own Educator Academy – Premont ISD Education Academy
The Grow Your Own Academy will provide students an opportunity to further learn about the education profession, including field experiences, shadowing, and dual credit opportunities.



Will Zelaya STEM Discovery Zone – Premont ISD STEM Academy
Prepares students for college and career with a focus in computer information technology, engineering, and oil and gas.



Arts and Career Express Academy – Brooks County ISD JHS STEAM
Provides specific pre-college, pre-careers, and creative opportunities for rural students who might not have the opportunity otherwise.

- A coordinating nonprofit organization must enter into MOUs with participating school systems

School Model Innovation -- Identify a school system need and a model that meets that need and create a new school system school

Example: Springfield, Massachusetts has a high percentage of English Language Learners, many of whom also speak Spanish, and there was strong interest from families in dual language programs. For this reason, the school system formed Springfield Realization Academy to bring dual language instruction to city middle schoolers. This new program focuses on technology integration as well as 21st-Century skills while providing instruction in both English and Spanish. Because of a pioneering initiative called the Springfield Empowerment Zone Partnership, Springfield Realization Academy has the flexibility to create a distinctive school model that serves the diverse students of Springfield effectively.

- Other Potential Models:
 - Early college
 - Montessori
 - International Baccalaureate
 - PTech
 - STEAM
 - ELL Newcomers Academy
 - Competency-based education
 - Pre-K
 - Community school
 - Other
- This school may replace an existing school or be an entirely new school
- The school may launch one grade level at a time
- To ensure sustainability of the identified model, an MOU with a nonprofit organization is required

Restart/Turnaround -- Work with an existing education organization with a developed model to dramatically improve a low-performing school

Example: In Midland, Texas, the school system had struggled for years to turn around a low-performing school. They turned to the nonprofit education organization Third Future Schools, which ran schools in Colorado using a clearly defined academic and cultural model it had developed. The Colorado schools were rapidly improving academic performance for students, and Midland was excited to bring the model to the school system. Under the Third Future model, there is a highly differentiated approach to student learning. Scheduling blocks of time for students to master different competencies allows students to move at their own pace (with guidance from teachers) and to spend more time on competencies with which they are having difficulty. The model allows students to work in small groups, on individual tasks, or to receive direct instruction in a larger group. In addition, Third Future Schools envisions a Year 2030 workplace that requires different skills – information literacy (the ability to access, manage and analyze information), communications, critical thinking and analysis, decision-making and problem solving, creativity, use of mobile devices and computer programming, and others. Thus, the Third Future curriculum includes these Year 2030 competencies. In the early grades (K-2), the primary focus is on reading, writing, math, and science. As students grow in their foundational skills, the thinking skills and “learning how to learn” become a larger part of their education.

- The turnaround may be whole-school or one grade at a time
- To ensure effective implementation of the turnaround model, an MOU with a nonprofit organization is required

Innovation Cluster -- Three or more schools in a school system with shared interests, such as a common feeder pattern or a consistent model or program

Example. In Fort Worth, Texas, the school system worked with five traditionally low-performing campuses to implement a promising new school model, creating a network of Leadership Academies. As Leadership Academies, the other schools implemented the Accelerating Campus Excellence (ACE) program, which included financial incentives for teachers and an extended day program which allowed for an extra hour of reading and math instruction. During the first years of this effort, all five schools made significant progress. The school system, however, worried about its ability to sustain focus on the innovative model over time and wanted to make sure to sustain the improvements that had been made on the campuses. For that reason, they partnered with Texas

Wesleyan University, a local institution of higher education they had worked with extensively, to launch the Leadership Academies Network. With a clearly defined relationship with the school system and a dedicated staff, the Leadership Academies Network can provide stability and support to ensure the continued success of the school system schools implementing the Leadership Academies model.

- To ensure sustainability and give dedicated support, an MOU with a nonprofit organization is required

Student Reassignment / School Reconfiguration -- A school system reassigns students from a low-performing school to a high-performing school, or reorganizes the structure of multiple schools. For example, a school system with two PK-5 schools may reorganize one as a PK-2 school and one as a 3-5 school.

Example: In Victoria, Texas, the school analyzed data and realized that there were opportunities to reassign students to higher-performing schools. Working with extensive input from community stakeholders, the district designed a process that allowed students to move to these schools. The district provided individualized support to affected students and families, and was able to make the reassignments while prioritizing academic performance.

- In the case of reassignment, this action must include at least 300 students moving to a higher-performing school

Wraparound Model -- A school system completely redesigns a school, or set of schools, by providing and coordinating wraparound services to students and families in collaboration with community organizations to provide services such as a vision clinic, mental health service center, and food pantry. The school(s) will embed the community collaboration included in this Reimagine Schools Action as part of a sustainable and clear school model that prioritizes academic achievement.

Example: In Waco, Texas, a group of schools attempting to improve academic performance decided to reimagine both its academic programming and the way it provided holistic services to students. The district entered into an agreement with a new local nonprofit, Transformation Waco, that provided ongoing support to help transform the schools and sustain their new wraparound model over time. The schools established formal partnerships with organizations in the community to expand the types of services available for students, in addition to using grant funding to hire Family Support Specialists at each campus.

Year-round School -- A school system reconfigures the school calendar for one or more schools in order to reduce learning loss and increase instructional time. Proposals for this Reimagine School Action will include a meaningful number of additional instructional hours as part of the reconfigured calendar.

Example: Schools in Texas are currently piloting the Additional Days School Year program in which they will add up to 30 additional school days over the course of the year. Research has shown that additional instructional time is effective when it is used well as part of an effective academic program.

Grant Phase I Timeline and Deliverables

School systems awarded Phase I funding will work with their Technical Assistance partners through cohort and individual support sessions beginning in December 2021 to develop strong plans and meet all Phase I requirements to qualify for Phase II funding. Please note that all deliverables listed below may not be applicable for all Reimagine School Actions.

1. **Planning team membership and roles:** a list of who will participate in the visioning and planning phase for the Reimagine School Action along with roles and responsibilities.

2. **Mission and vision; alignment to school system strategy:** a statement developed by the planning team that serves as a north star for the grant outcomes. In addition, the school system will link its proposed Reimagine School Action to its broader strategy.
3. **A data-informed rationale for the selected Reimagine School Action:** grantees will receive information that includes system-specific insights, including historical school system-wide performance, demographic, and enrollment trends. In addition to system-wide insights intended to support data-informed Reimagine School Action planning, participating systems will also have access to on-demand data analysis specific to their selected Reimagine School Action and chosen campus(es). Using this information, systems will define the rationale for the Reimagine School Actions they are pursuing.
4. **Specific School Action narrative:** clearly defined Reimagine School Action plan that includes the identification of impacted campuses and a sustainability plan.
5. **School academic and culture plan:** this detailed blueprint for the school(s) impacted by the Reimagine School Action should be aligned with the chosen school model and meet specific local needs and should be based on research and evidence.
6. **Goals and progress measures:** jointly-developed grant metrics (Aspirations and Mission Measures) aligned to the mission and vision used to track planning progress and to share progress with LDOE.
7. **Workplan:** a detailed plan with owners and due dates that will be used by the school system Project Coordinator to ensure Phase I planning activities are on track and completed.
8. **Stakeholder engagement plan:** a plan identifying key stakeholders who should be engaged in the planning process with dates and formats for engagement.
9. **Implementation budget:** a jointly-developed budget to support successful Reimagine School Action implementation by the school system in Phase II.
10. **Completed grant sustainability and launch milestones:** evidence that the school system has met planning requirements for its Reimagine School Action. The school system has clearly defined outcomes, roles, and responsibilities for implementing the Reimagine School Action and has described how the school system will support effective and sustainable implementation of relevant school models.

School systems that follow through on grant-specific components will be eligible for Phase II funding (outlined below) as early as Summer 2022.

Intended Impact

This program will be successful if the following are true:

- School systems develop implementation plans for their chosen Reimagine School Action that are likely to be successful and are aligned to research and evidence, local needs, and system priorities.
- School systems engage deeply with many stakeholder groups to get feedback during the planning process.
- School systems implement Reimagine School Actions that increase the level of innovation, the availability of high-quality seats, and/or the level of rural system collaboration.
- School systems sustain Reimagine School Actions with fidelity over time.

Details on School System Participants

Various leaders, including the LEA Board and the Superintendent, will be involved during the grant cycle. The Project Coordinator will play an essential role in the grant, ensuring the right stakeholders are brought in at the right time, all grant requirements are completed, and communication remains strong between TA providers and school system participants.

The Coordinator should have the skillset often held by a school system's Chief of Staff, including:

- Visibility across the whole organization
- An orientation towards action and decision-making

- A track record of successfully completing “special projects” that cut across departments, and thus require coordination with multiple individuals and departments
- The ability to manage multiple workstreams
- Regular access to the superintendent and other key school system cabinet members

Participant Benefits

School systems participating in the grant program will receive the following benefits:

1. **Technical assistance (TA):** each system will be matched with high-quality providers with expertise in selected Reimagined School Actions. LDOE recognizes that the actions covered in this grant are likely new ways of operating for many school systems, and TA providers will ensure that school systems feel supported and have all questions answered during the course of the grant.
2. **Financial resources:** most Phase I grants will be up to \$350,000, with up to 25% of that reserved for required technical assistance, with even greater resources available in Phase II (most up to \$1.5 million or more per grant, with larger grants available as well).
3. **Capacity building:** participating school systems will develop new competencies to lead innovative school system work, building their overall skills to lead successful school systems.

Technical Assistance Partner Commitments

LDOE strives to identify the highest quality TA partners with strong expertise in selected School Actions, project management, and more. TA partners will be focused on building the capacity of participating school systems to effectively lead this work internally.

School System Commitments

- Grantee school systems must participate in regular meetings and events related to the grant program.
- Project Coordinators will participate in weekly calls with technical assistance providers and spend at least 50% of their time supporting grant-related work.
- The superintendent/system leader will participate in occasional sessions with LDOE and technical assistance providers, as well as potential convenings (no more than twice per year).
- Cabinet members will participate in occasional sessions and will also commit to working with the Project Coordinator and technical assistance providers to take steps necessary to implement the grant.
- The system’s board will allocate board meeting time to review grant progress at least quarterly, and the full board will participate in a one-time training (up to 3 hours).

How to Apply

Applicants will complete the application (below) in advance of the Inspire! round 2 submission deadline (December 16, 2021) and upload the application directly in eGMS under section P5.3.1.

Questions

Potential applicants should contact LDOE to set up a meeting as discussed above, and should also feel free to ask any grant-related questions before the submission deadline by contacting Jennifer Tuttleton at jennifer.tuttleton@la.gov.

Reimagine School Systems 2021 Grant Application

Applications are due in PDF form by 5:00 PM on either October 7, 2021 (round 1 submission) or December 16, 2021 (round 2 submission) - upload to Achieve! under P5.3.1.

General School System Information

School System Name:

School System Superintendent:

School System Superintendent Signature:

LEA Board President:

LEA Board President Signature:

Primary Application Contact:

Primary Application Contact Email Address:

Primary Application Contact Phone Number:

Grant Writer Name:

Signature:

A. Reimagine School Action Planning

Below, you will select one or more Reimagine School Actions to tentatively propose, which may be adjusted before the interview. Further community engagement between the application deadline and your system interview may lead you to adjust your proposed Reimagine School Action, and that is permissible. During the interview you will be asked to describe your proposed Reimagine School Action(s) and your rationale for selecting the action(s), including how the proposed action is supported by data. If you receive a grant, you may adjust your proposal during Phase I of the grant with LDOE's approval as discussed below.

For the proposed Reimagine School Action(s), please describe for each (if you are applying for more than one school action, please attach a supplemental document to your Reimagine School Systems application for each additional action(s)):

1.) How the proposed Reragine School Action(s) will be beneficial to your school system (250 word limit)

2.) How the proposed Reimagine School Action(s) fit into your system’s strategic plan and/or overall strategy (250 word limit)

3.) Who was involved in the decision to pursue this planning grant (250 word limit)

Please check which Reimagine School Action(s) your school system is considering at the time of application and identify if you plan to explore a Memorandum of Understanding to promote sustainability. Systems that commit to this exploration receive bonus points during the selection process and, if a Memorandum of Understanding is completed, are eligible for larger grants. Please note that you may change your proposed action(s) at any point before the interview and that during the planning process you may, with LDOE approval, elect to shift Reimagine School Action(s) after you go through a more detailed planning process. Each Phase II implementation grant will support implementation of one of these Reimagine School Actions:

Replication: Identify a high-performing school, currently existing in the school system, with a dynamic leader and expand the ability of that program to serve school system students.

YES or **NO** Committing to pursuing an MOU to sustain the Reimagine School Action

Expansion: Identify a high-performing school with a dynamic leader and expand the ages of students served by that school.

YES or **NO** Committing to pursuing an MOU to sustain the Reimagine School Action

Rural Collaboration: Two or more rural parishes apply with a plan for sharing educational resources (but not consolidating) so that students have access to greater opportunities.

**Pursuing an MOU for sustainability is required for this Reimagine School Action*

School Innovation: Identify a school system need and a model that meets that need (e.g., early college, dual language instruction, Montessori education), and create a new school system school.

**Pursuing an MOU for sustainability is required for this Reimagine School Action*

Restart/Turnaround: Work with an existing education organization with a developed model and experience turning around struggling schools to dramatically improve a low-performing school.

**Pursuing an MOU for sustainability is required for this Reimagine School Action*

Innovation Cluster: Three or more schools in a school system with shared interests, such as a common feeder pattern or a consistent model or program.

**Pursuing an MOU for sustainability is required for this Reimagine School Action*

Student Reassignment / School Reconfiguration: A school system reassigns students from a low-performing school to a high-performing school, or reorganizes the structure of multiple schools.

Wraparound Model: A school system completely redesigns a school, or set of schools, by providing and coordinating wraparound services to students and families in collaboration with community organizations. The school(s) will also make significant improvements to the academic experience for students.

Year-round Calendar: One or more schools move to a year-round academic calendar to extend learning for students.

Local Innovation: School systems may apply to plan and implement a locally-developed, bold plan to transform how students are served at one or more schools.

Please identify who would serve as the project coordinator for the grant. If the individual is a current employee, please provide their current title and describe how their current workload would be adjusted to spend at least half of their time on this grant:

B. Bonus Points

School systems who can provide evidence of any of the following factors below, **by the time of their system interview**, will receive additional points on their overall application score.

Factor	Evidence
LEA Board Support: 3 or more LEA Board Members are aware of and are in support of the school system pursuing a planning grant for the specified school action.	Signed statement of support by 3+ LEA Board Members.
School System Leadership Support: 3 or more cabinet-level leaders (excluding the Superintendent) are listed in Part 1.A as being involved in the decision to apply for the grant.	Participation of 3+ cabinet-level leaders (in addition to the Superintendent) and signed statements of support.
Multiple Stakeholder Engagement: the school system consulted parents, community members, and/or teachers prior to the school system interview.	At the interview, the school system provides a list of specific names and relevant affinity groups who were consulted in the decision to apply for the grant.
Sustainability: at the time of application, the system commits to entering into an MOU to support and sustain the Reimagine School Action over time.	School system designation of MOU in the application.
School Identification: the school system has identified the school(s) for the Reimagine School Action(s) by the interview and can provide a compelling rationale for selecting the school(s).	At the interview, the school system provides the name of the school(s) for the Reimagine School Action(s) and provides a compelling rationale for selecting the school(s).

C. Grant Assurances

Applicants must commit to the following assurances as a part of the grant program. Failure to follow through on grant assurances may lead to school systems being designated as ineligible to receive Phase II funding.

Assurance	Superintendent Initials
The school system will designate or hire a Project Coordinator who will spend at least 50% time on the grant.	
The school system commits to attending all LDOE grant-related events and convenings.	
The school system agrees to work with a matched technical assistance provider (covered by grant funds).	
The school system agrees that its board will attend 1 session of board training (no more than 3 hours) associated with the grant program.	
The school system understands that Phase II funding will not be released until all required Phase I Reimagine School Action milestones are met .	

Guidance for System Interview: Reimagine School Action-Specific Questions

Applicants invited to interview should come prepared to answer questions related to their proposed Reimagine School Actions, such as the ones listed below (***no answers are required to be submitted at this time***).

Replication: Identify a high-performing school, currently existing in the school system, with a dynamic leader and expand the ability of that program to serve school system students.

1. What school do you plan to replicate?
2. Please provide the school's SPS for the last 2 years for which data is available:
3. Please provide the school enrollment for each of the last 3 school years:
4. Who is the leader of this school? How long have they been at the school, and what are their other qualifications?
5. Please describe why you believe that this school is a strong choice to replicate:
6. Would you plan to implement this Reimagine School Action in Fall 2022 or Fall 2023?
7. Do you plan to enter into an MOU for this action (with support from your grant technical assistance provider)?

Expansion: Identify a high-performing school with a dynamic leader and expand the ages of students served by that school.

1. What school do you plan to expand?
2. Please provide the school's SPS for the last 2 years for which data is available:
3. Please provide the school enrollment for each of the last 3 school years:
4. Who is the leader of this school? How long have they been at the school, and what are their other qualifications?
5. Please describe why you believe that this school would be successful expanding the ages of students served:
6. Would you plan to implement this Reimagine School Action in Fall 2022 or Fall 2023?
7. Do you plan to enter into an MOU for this action (with support from your grant technical assistance provider)?

Rural Collaboration: Two or more rural parishes apply with a plan for sharing educational resources (but not consolidating) so that students have access to greater opportunities.

1. What other parish(es) are you planning to work with?
2. How do the other parish(es) compare to yours, academically and demographically?
3. What communication have you had so far about potential collaboration? Please identify who specifically from each parish has been in communication.
4. What are the greatest opportunities that you see to share educational resources with the other parish(es)?
5. What potential barriers can you identify to strong collaboration?
6. Would you plan to implement this Reimagine School Action in Fall 2022 or Fall 2023?
7. Do you plan to enter into an MOU for this action (with support from your grant technical assistance provider)?

*Required for this action

School Model Innovation: Identify a school system need and a model that meets that need (e.g., early college, dual language instruction, Montessori education), and create a new school system school.

1. What model have you selected and why? What need within your school system will it meet?
2. How would you confirm that this model is in demand by the students and families in your area?
3. Where is the closest school to your parish (including charter and private) that offers this model?
4. Would you plan to implement this Reimagine School Action in Fall 2022 or Fall 2023?

5. Do you plan to enter into an MOU for this action (with support from your grant technical assistance provider)?
*Required for this action

Restart/Turnaround: Work with an existing education organization with a developed model and experience turning around struggling schools to dramatically improve a low-performing school.

1. What school have you selected for a restart/turnaround?
2. Please detail the school's track record of low performance:
3. What potential barriers to success have inhibited this school in the past?
4. Would you plan to implement this Reimagine School Action in Fall 2022 or Fall 2023?
5. Do you plan to pursue an MOU for this action (with support from your grant technical assistance provider)?
*Required for this action

Innovation Cluster: Three or more schools in a school system with shared interests, such as a common feeder pattern or a consistent model or program.

1. Please provide the names and grade levels of the schools under consideration for an innovation cluster:
2. Please provide each school's SPS for the last 2 years for which data is available:
3. What is the tenure of each school's leader at the campus?
4. Do any of the schools have specific models or themes?
5. Please describe why these schools would work well together in an innovation cluster:
6. Would you plan to implement this school action in Fall 2022 or Fall 2023?
7. Do you plan to pursue an MOU for this action (with support from your grant technical assistance provider)?
*Required for this action

Student Reassignment / School Reconfiguration: A school system reassigns students from a low-performing school to a high-performing school, or reorganizes the structure of multiple schools.

1. Please describe the reassignment or school reconfiguration that the system would like to pursue:
2. Please provide the name of each school that would be included in the proposed reconfiguration:
3. Please provide each school's SPS for the last two years for which data is available:
4. Please describe how this reassignment or reconfiguration would benefit students currently attending a low-performing school:
5. How many students would be moved to a higher-performing school in your plan?
6. Would you plan to implement this Reimagine School Action in Fall 2022 or Fall 2023?
7. What adverse impacts could this reassignment or reconfiguration cause?

Wraparound Model: A school system completely redesigns a school, or set of schools, by providing and coordinating wraparound services to students and families in collaboration with community organizations, such as a vision clinic, mental health service center, and food pantry. In addition to the community collaboration included in this Reimagine Schools Action, the campus will make significant improvements to the academic experience for students.

1. Please provide the name of each school that will be included in the Reimagine School Action:
2. Please describe how you determine which school(s) to include in this Reimagine School Action:
3. Please describe what support the school(s) need:
4. Please describe how a wraparound model would provide the needed support identified above:
5. Please describe how a wraparound model would include a focus on making significant improvements to the academic experience for students:
6. Do you plan to enter into an MOU for this Reimagine School Action?
7. Would you plan to implement this Reimagine School Action in Fall 2022 or Fall 2023?

Year-Round School: A school system reconfigures the school calendar for one or more schools in order to reduce learning loss and increase instructional time. Proposals for this Reimagine School Action will include a meaningful number of additional instructional hours as part of the reconfigured calendar.

1. Please provide the name of each school that will be included in the Reimagine School Action:
2. Please describe how you determine which school(s) to include in this Reimagine School Action:
3. Please describe the adjusted calendar you will use:

4. Please describe the ways in which the adjusted calendar will add learning time compared to the previous calendar:
5. Please explain the rationale for designing the calendar in this way:
6. How do you plan to sustainably fund the additional time?
7. How do you plan to involve the school community in dialogue about the proposed calendar changes?
8. Do you plan to enter into an MOU for this Reimagine School Action?