

\$2,000,000

Program Administrator: Marian Schutte

Constitutional Category:

Research/Pilot Programs

Program Description:

New Schools Incubation is designed to encourage innovation in schools and increase student achievement. Funding will be provided for individuals to be trained through a leadership program to launch new/turnaround schools and to provide funding for high quality school operators to replicate their already successful school models. This funding is critical to enabling and encouraging the launch of new quality schools across Louisiana.

Measurable Objectives:

By July 31, 2013, LDE will receive 25 successful applications.

By June 30, 2014, LDE will authorize 25 charter schools from Believe and Succeed applicants.

By June 30, 2014, 100% of the RSD transformation schools will be staffed for school opening.

Evaluation Method:

Application Submission Results

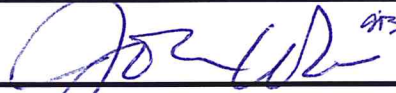
Counting and tracking the number of individuals and districts that receive funds

Staffing lists for transformation schools

**8(g) STATEWIDE PROGRAMS
BUDGET
FY 2013-2014**

8(g) Program Log No. New School Incubation

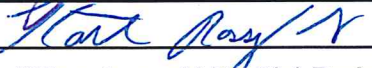
John White



(Print Name of Agency Head)

(Signature of Agency Head)

Katherine Granier



(*Print Name of LDE 8(g) Budget Analyst)

(*Signature of LDE 8(g) Budget Analyst)

*If the project's administering agency is the Louisiana Department of Education, budget revisions must be approved by the LDE 8(g) Budget Analyst.

Funds are to be expended between July 1, 2013 and June 30, 2014.

Category	Total Budget Requested
Personal Services	
Salaries - Regular	
Other Compensation	
Related Benefits	
TOTAL PERSONAL SERVICES	\$0.00
Professional Services	
Contracted Professional Services	
TOTAL PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	\$0.00
Operating Expenses	
Travel	
Operating Services	
Supplies	
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$0.00
Acquisitions	
Equipment	
TOTAL ACQUISITIONS	\$0.00
Other Charges	
Aid to Local School Boards	
Public Assistance	\$1,425,000.00
Interagency Transfer to University	
TOTAL OTHER CHARGES	\$1,425,000.00
Interagency Transfers	
Transfer of Funds	\$575,000.00
Other	
TOTAL INTERAGENCY TRANSFERS	\$575,000.00
TOTAL COST	\$2,000,000.00

III. Application Criteria

New School Development Grants will provide matching funds to districts, charter management organizations, non-profits, and individual school leader candidates with a high-quality plan for leading an autonomous school. **At a minimum, proposals must include the participation of one or more school leader candidates in a rigorous training program that culminates in the creation of an autonomous school.**

Applicants may additionally propose training for individuals who would serve as teacher leaders or as members of the leadership team of the proposed new autonomous school. Applicants may select one of the leadership development programs found in the appendix of this application or propose an alternative leadership development program.

Expanding Excellence and New School Development Grants will be awarded through a competitive process. Applicants may propose any level of match, but funding levels will depend on the number and quality of applications. All applicants are encouraged to secure or contribute some level of matching funding but this is not mandatory.

Applicants should keep in mind the following criteria:

1. A sound plan for the creation and sustainability of one or more autonomous new schools

Successful school leadership candidates must be given both the training needed to transition into new leadership roles, and, once in those roles, the autonomy needed to be successful. All applicants must describe the conditions that will enable school leader candidates to successfully open a new autonomous school – a charter school, or an autonomous district school (including complete takeovers of existing district schools) – upon completion of their leadership development program. Applicants may include plans for school leader candidates who complete teacher leader development programs to be placed in a teacher leader position on a clear path towards leading an autonomous school. In autonomous district schools the district must, at a minimum, grant the school leader autonomy over staffing, budgetary, and curricular decisions.

2. High expectations and a clear plan for achieving success.

For schools to be successful, leadership must have a clear vision of what success looks like for students and faculty. Applicants should describe the standards they intend to use to measure student learning, the assessments they plan to use to measure their progress towards their goals, and their strategy for empowering teachers to lead students to academic achievement.

Traditional school district applicants should also describe what impact their school leadership candidates will have on student achievement in the district's selected turnaround schools beginning in the fall of 2013, while leadership development candidates are still participating in their leadership development programs. This can include ongoing mentorship opportunities, collaboration with existing staff at the school, status checks on the progress the school is making prior to the new leadership, or other district strategies.

3. Alignment between the applicant’s plan for a new autonomous school and the leadership development program

Applicants should choose leadership development programs that will best prepare the identified school leader candidate(s) to lead students who currently attend low-performing schools to great academic gains. New School Development Grant applications will be evaluated based on the alignment between the chosen leadership development program and the applicant’s plan for one or more new autonomous schools.

4. A rigorous school leader candidate selection process

The Department will not directly assess the quality of the school leader candidate(s) proposed in an application. Therefore, to ensure that the application process surfaces Louisiana’s most promising leaders, all school leader candidates must qualify to participate in the leadership development program identified in the application prior to receiving funding. The Department expects LEA and non-profit applicants to be able to articulate how they conducted a rigorous screening process for leadership candidates selected for the leadership development program. Individual school leader candidates will be evaluated based not on their merits as a leader, but on the quality of their proposal for a new autonomous school. Applicants may be conditionally approved for a New School Development Grant pending a school leader candidate’s acceptance into a leadership development program.

V. Evaluation Rubric

Priority will be given to applications that satisfy the criteria described on pages 6 and 7. Specifically, successful applications must:

- Demonstrate a clear commitment to the development and creation of autonomous schools that serve students in D and F rated schools
- Explain how the proposed school(s) will develop and maintain high standards for students and adults
- Describe a rigorous selection process for promising leadership candidates
- Clearly articulate measurable and timely goals and objectives

In addition, applicants should consider the following guidance:

- Before submitting an application on their own, school leader candidates are encouraged to communicate with the school district in which they plan to open an autonomous school.
- Applicants may not identify school leader candidates who are already in line to accept school leader positions within their LEA.

Applications will be evaluated based on the following point system:

Project Impact (35 Points)	The extent to which the applicant proposes a high quality plan to improve the educational opportunities for students in D and F rated schools.
Project Goals (20 Points)	The extent to which project goals are robust, specific, and measurable. Goals must directly address Succeed and Believe priorities and, for LEA applicants, must be tied directly to larger LEA goals.
Project Design (35 Points)	The extent to which the applicant proposes a high-quality plan to effectively use leadership development funds to create or contribute to a talent pipeline of promising individuals prepared to launch and/or lead autonomous schools in Louisiana.
Budget Narrative (10 Points)	The extent to which the narrative outlines allowable and reasonable costs that are aligned with the proposal.