

District Innovation Growth (DIG) Program

Frequently Asked Questions *updated 07/08/2026*

Q: Can the program be used to purchase equipment?

A: An application to purchase equipment may be submitted if the proposal meets the program intent and evaluation criteria.

Q: Does the Chair have to sign the application, or can the Vice-Chair sign if the Chair is absent from the meeting when the application is approved?

A: Yes, an original wet ink signature must be on the application. The chair should sign the application following discussion and approval in a board meeting; the minutes should reflect action having been taken. In the event the chair is absent from the meeting during which the proposal is approved for submission, the vice chair may sign.

Q: Can the project be for something the district did in the past, but is not currently doing?

A: A proposal must be for a project or activity that is outside the district's current normal course of business.

Q: Can a district use a previously submitted project?

A: Yes, if the project was not funded in a previous DIG program, a district may submit the project again. Improvements and updates should be made to the previously submitted proposal. Applicants must follow updated guidance and instructions and utilize the current program year forms.

Q: Can a continuation or additional "phase" of a previously approved project be submitted?

A: Yes, a district may submit a project that was funded in a previous DIG program for continuation or for an additional "phase." However, the current phase of the project must be fully completed or on track to be fully completed by the FY27 funding announcement date. A continuation proposal must meet the program intent and evaluation criteria; it may not be for anything that was included in the original project phase.

Q: Our district had a project funded in the last program year, can we apply for a new and different project?

A: Yes, a district that received funding in the previous program year may submit a new and different project proposal. However, the current funded project must be fully completed or on track to be fully completed by the FY27 funding announcement date.

Q: Is mileage a valid project expense?

A: Yes, reasonable mileage may be considered a project expense if it is included in the project budget at the time of application.

Q: May the proposal budget include gift cards, door prizes, or other giveaway items?

A: Generally, no – project funds may not be expended for employee compensation, gift cards, cash awards, door prizes, or other "swag" and giveaway items. If there is a need for these types of items for the success of the project, that should be clearly explained in the application.