



INNOVATIVE EDUCATION FUND

GRANT RECOMMENDATIONS

Innovating Education Prototype & Expansion Grant Recommendations

Applicant	Charles R. Drew Charter School of Atlanta Public Schools
Grant Type	Prototype Grant
Funding Request	\$25,000.00
Project Summary	In 2022, the NAEP (National Assessment of Education Progress) reading assessment found that 67% of American 4th graders were not reading at a proficient level; this staggering statistic increases to 80% for low-income students. According to Science of Reading (SoR) expert Louisa Moats, "researchers now estimate that 95% of all children can be taught to read by the end of first grade." The 'SoR High Drew Eagles: A Literacy Leadership Initiative' is a three-pronged approach which will use the Science of Reading research to design and implement an innovative summer literacy camp for Drew's current second graders who are very behind grade level, which is approximately 30 students, aiming to get these students on grade level as they enter third grade. In partnership with the Atlanta Speech School, Drew will use the grant funding to provide its educators with high-quality research and evidence-based practices. After the summer literacy camp pilot with its rising third graders, the trained interventionists will audit Drew's literacy curriculum and strategies. From there, the school will utilize the strategies/resources that produced the largest gains with students' literacy and work with Drew teachers to ensure these strategies are implemented during the school year. Each year, new teachers will be recruited for training, and the school will continue to hold the summer literacy camp based on need.

Applicant	CSRA of Georgia in partnership with Warren County Schools±
Grant Type	Expansion Grant
Funding Request	\$20,000
Project Summary	A powerful predictor of literacy outcomes is a child's language development in the early years and early grades. In fact, language development dramatically and positively impacts life outcomes. Conversely, the failure to develop a capacity for effective communication jeopardizes emotional well-being, literacy, and academic success. Although significant, the relationship between language and literacy is often overlooked. This innovation grant will expand existing professional learning initiated by the Deal Center where two "champion" communities have been identified to embed evidence-based practices for early language development through the utilization of the Language as a Missing Link (LML) Toolkit. These champion communities — Savannah-Chatham and Columbus-Muscogee — were selected as a result of their cross-sector partnerships and the recognition that while literacy had been a priority, their capacity to notice, monitor, and enhance language development had not yet been part of their community plan. As Deal Center Champion communities, they have demonstrated a commitment to bridging the birth

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	to age eight continuum. The RESAs serving these two communities will join this effort to enhance sustainability of this commitment and build capacity of existing professional learning staff to support their ongoing efforts. Furthermore, CSRA RESA, in collaboration with Head Start, has identified Warren County as a pilot community that is ready to replicate the implementation of the LML Toolkit.
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Applicant	Georgia College & State University in partnership with Newton County Schools and Bulloch County Schools
Grant Type	Prototype Grant
Funding Request	\$25,000.00
Project Summary	Underprivileged students in rural Georgia have limited access to quality STEM education and underperform in STEM areas. The project will transfer undergraduate research experience (URE) as an evidence-based, successful STEM learning model to High School (HS) students and promote early STEM learning. Georgia College & State University (GCSU) and Georgia Southern (GS) University have partnered with two high schools to improve HS students' achievement and motivation in STEM. The grant will be used to (a) initiate collaboration with HS teachers and university scientists, (b) provide necessary supplies for students to complete their research projects, and (c) support dissemination of project results at STEM conferences. The university faculties will provide URE training to HS teachers, mentoring students in designing, implementing, and reporting their research projects, and engage HS teachers in collaborative action research (CAR) to reflect on program effectiveness. Sustainability Plan: The program leadership team will work closely with partner schools through (a) monthly meetings and visits, and (b) summer/after school seminars to engage teachers in CAR. The partnership will generate a logic model and theory of change, which can be replicated over the next 5-10 years. Teachers in the partnership grow to become mentors for their future colleagues. As student participants move on to higher grade levels, they may serve as peer-research mentors for their younger schoolmates. STEM research will become an established practice at partner schools, with student presentations at GCSU and GS University's annual STEM conference as an added incentive.

Applicant	Gwinnett Intervention Education Center (GIVE) Center West of Gwinnett County Public Schools*
Grant Type	Prototype Grant
Funding Request	\$25,000.00
Project Summary	GIVE Center West and their lead partner, Wellroot, have designed a new program in which trauma-sensitive services will be delivered to students, family, and staff so that the school community develops capacity and emotional resilience called GIVE CARE (Community Achieving Resilience Education). Students will participate in a semester-long, project-based class designed to address mental health. This daily class will integrate resiliency training and teen mental health first aid. Concurrently, students' parents will participate in the "Triple P" course (Positive Parenting Program), an evidenced-based parenting class. The families will develop an

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	intergenerational project for their student's GIVE CARE class. The purpose of the project is to give the family a low-risk opportunity to utilize the skills and strategies they learned in the course around goal setting, strength-based communication, expectation setting, and accountability. Families that qualify will be eligible to participate in functional family therapy.
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Applicant	Hope Givers in partnership with Troup County Schools*
Grant Type	Expansion Grant
Funding Request	\$20,000
Project Summary	Hope Givers Live is a series of engaging, energetic, empowering events designed to better prepare young people to navigate life. By featuring positively charged entertainment, coupled with testimonials from teens and young adults, Hope Givers Live provides invaluable insight for students. These events include GADoE standards-aligned content, mental health first aid-certified speakers, music, contests, and performances that provide an immersive experience meant to educate and inspire. Hope Givers Live! has been performed in front of over 3,000 students across ten counties in Georgia so far. We have received incredible feedback and support from principals and students. In the 2021 school year, the GADoE reported over 24,000 Georgia students attempted suicide at least once. The Hope Givers Live! program educates students on mental health coping strategies and celebrates the trusted adults at each school. By the end of the event, 71.67% of students can identify a mental health resource. Hope Givers uses local community partners as well as state-wide and national grants to achieve the goal of saving young lives.

Applicant	Jasper County Primary School of Jasper County Charter System
Grant Type	Prototype Grant
Funding Request	\$25,000.00
Project Summary	Career interest surveys administered to kindergarten through second graders show top career aspirations: teachers, police officers or firefighters. Few responded paleontologist (3), scientist (2), or engineer (2). Early learners select familiar careers. Jasper County's learners live in a rural area with limited career exposure. Agribusinesses are the largest industries in the local economy; however, students are unfamiliar with the array of jobs in agriculture. To leverage its community resources, the IEF grant will help modify the current tinker lab into an agricultural and biotechnologies lab. The focus would center around food since the students are enthusiastic about the school gardens. Introducing non-traditional STEM careers by teaching topics such as: biofuels, food chemistry, seeds, nutritional values, and chromatography. To ensure sustainability, the grant would fund equipment supporting agricultural & biotechnology sciences. By equipping the lab with tools such as microscopes, probes, hydroponics, data bots, micropipettes, pollinator habitats, mud watts, potato clocks, and column chromatography students would have access to specialized equipment for many years. The lessons for implementation will be published to ensure sustainability. For professional development, the school will collaborate with the Center for Global Health Innovation which will provide specialized training in the area of biotechnology.

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Applicant	The Literacy Lab in partnership with Paul L. Dunbar Elementary School*
Grant Type	Expansion Grant
Funding Request	\$20,000
Project Summary	In 2022, just 34% of Atlanta Public School (APS) students were proficient in reading. At the same time, the APS system suffered from a noticeable lack of representation among early childhood educators. Nationally, men represent between 1-6% of such educators, with most estimates closer to the former (Atlanta Journal-Constitution, 2021). There are even fewer men of color. The Literacy Lab responded to these challenges in the 2022-23 school year. Through the Leading Men Fellowship (LMF), the organization recruited, trained, and placed 20 young men of color, ages 18-24, in preschool classrooms at Paul L. Dunbar Elementary School, Harper-Archer Elementary School, Boyd Elementary School, and others to serve as literacy educators to 228 pre-K students. In SY2023-24, the organization will expand the program to 35 Fellows who will serve 525 pre-K students at these and additional APS schools. Funding from GFPE will allow the organization to send eight additional Fellows to a rigorous, week-long Ascend Institute Training in preparation for their work as literacy educators.

Applicant	Marietta High School of Marietta City Schools
Grant Type	Prototype Grant
Funding Request	\$25,000.00
Project Summary	The Engineering & Architecture Research Laboratory for Sustainability (EARLS) Lab is a design build project which will serve as a STEM learning space for Marietta City Schools. Using previously donated 40' Hi-Cube containers which are already anchored to a permanent foundation at Marietta High School (MHS), the EARLS Lab will be built by students and serve as an immersive, problem-based project. This project addresses the need for students to engage in hands-on experiences and reflection, connecting theories and knowledge learned in the classroom to real-world work. MHS students will participate in the planning, building, and engineering processes, to include electrical, plumbing, tiny home technology, rainwater harvesting, and solar installation. Students impacted by the project will include MHS students who engage in research in the EARLS LAB, as well as every student in the district who visits the EARLS Lab for field trips. Partners will include members of the community skilled in the following areas who will guide students through each component: engineering, architecture, sustainable technologies, and skilled trades such as masonry, welding, plumbing and pipe fitting, carpentry, and painting. GFPE funding will launch the project by funding a set of working drawings with schedules so that the project final plans can be permitted. Once the project is permitted, MHS students will partner with community members and local organizations to complete the work.

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Applicant	Newton County Schools±
Grant Type	Expansion Grant
Funding Request	\$20,000
Project Summary	With funds from the Innovating Education Mini Grant from 2022, Newton County Schools strengthened its district-wide coding program, InspiHER. The InspiHER program consists of a full-day coding conference and summer STEM camp for girls. The program was influential in exposing girls to educational experiences, potential job fields, and other post-secondary options available to them in computer science fields. With the mini grant, Newton County Schools was able to select 10-15 students from each school to attend the full-day conference. This number represented approximately 10% of students that applied to participate. Funding by IEF will help us increase the number of students who will experience, be exposed to, and reimagine a future in technology careers through the conference and the STEM camp.

Applicant	Oglethorpe County High School of Oglethorpe County Schools
Grant Type	Prototype Grant
Funding Request	\$25,000.00
Project Summary	The Oglethorpe County School System recently implemented the Computer Science Principles course at its high school, Oglethorpe County High School (OCHS). Presently, for students who are enrolled in the course, there is no advanced course to further their skills within the computer science field. Moreover, students do not have access to a pathway that will fulfill their graduation requirements, equip them for college level coursework, or to enter the workforce. After gathering survey data to learn of student's interests in the next course to take, OCHS will launch the Game Design Pathway, which would require adding the Game Design course. The school will equip a lab with game design devices that could support the technology needed to complete the course requirements and also support an afterschool Esports program. Following the grant, the high school will add the Game Design course to its list of options for registration and a third course is also being planned for the following year to fulfill a complete pathway.

Applicant	University of North Georgia Research Foundation, Inc.*
Grant Type	Expansion Grant
Funding Request	\$20,000
Project Summary	The Teacher Candidate Recruitment Program (TCRP) is a program designed to create a pipeline to P-12 classrooms for teacher education candidates at the University of North Georgia and area school systems (Hall County and Gainesville City School Systems). This project is critical to Georgia's ability to mitigate the looming teacher shortage that the state (and nation) is anticipating over the next five years. The objective of this program is to serve as a pipeline to the profession during a time of impending crisis, while providing high quality environments for P-12 learners who, without this program, may have only had long term substitutes who may not have

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	had any pedagogical training nor the ability to meet the diverse and individualized needs of the population. This grant will be utilized to provide classroom resources for residents participating in this project as well as a small amount of summer compensation for two faculty who coordinate the program both during summer and for the remainder of the academic year. Approximately 32 teacher candidate residents will hold classrooms in Gainesville City and Hall County School Systems in AY 2023-2024. Based on class size averages for the state of GA, approximately 768 students in these districts will be impacted by residents with strong content and pedagogical skills. This project is sustainable as UNG is putting measures into place to support the program that involve restructured programs of study, as well as providing release time for faculty.
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Applicant	YMCA of Coastal Georgia in partnership with AB Williams Elementary, Otis J Brock Elementary, Mercer Middle, DeRenne Middle, and West Chatham Middle of Savannah Chatham Charter School System*
Grant Type	Prototype Grant
Funding Request	\$25,000.00
Project Summary	The YMCA of Coastal Georgia will pilot an innovative program designed around teaching students piano to increase their reading and math proficiency. Chatham County, Georgia public schools have an average math proficiency score of 20% (versus the Georgia public school average of 35%) and reading proficiency score of 26% (versus the 39% statewide average). Studies have found a positive association between music lessons and higher school grades and higher scores on achievement testing mathematics, spelling, and reading. With the grant, the YMCA of Coastal Georgia will purchase the foundational equipment and materials needed to pilot the new program in five schools to provide free piano lessons.

Innovative Education Mini Grant Recommendations

Applicant	Otwell Middle School of Forsyth County Schools
Grant Type	Mini Grant
Funding Request	\$4,101.00
Project Summary	Otwell Middle School will use the Innovative Education Fund Mini Grant to transform the media center into an Innovation Lab. The innovation lab will include books, a green screen, print and digital resources and encourage collaboration and the development of podcasts. The school will establish a "recording studio" inside the media center called "Sic 'em Studios" in which the school will produce its own school podcasts and student green screen projects. The intention is for the media center to be a learning hub for the school community that encourages teachers and students to connect, collaborate, create, and contribute. With the equipment requested for the grant, it would allow students to create authentic learning projects through green screen and podcast projects.

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Applicant	Satilla Marsh Elementary School of Glynn County Schools
Grant Type	Mini Grant
Funding Request	\$4,947.00
Project Summary	Satilla Marsh Elementary is a Title I public school in rural Brunswick, Georgia. The school will develop and implement a journalism media program with its fifth-grade Sandpipers, which it has named "The Chirp." The Chirp will exist as a collaborative creative outlet that students will curate, produce, and design. Students will use the digital medium of their choice to create digital products of the topics, profiles, careers, and histories that interest them. This opportunity will allow students to engage with photography, videography, print publishing, and audio production.

Applicant	Tattnall County High School of Tattnall County Schools
Grant Type	Mini Grant
Funding Request	\$3,675.00
Project Summary	The Tattnall Board of Education will use the mini grant to support the Financial Future Program targeting all 320 ninth grade students in the Tattnall County School System. Currently, students do not fully understand the importance of their high school education and how it impacts future career and life goals. The proposed project will give the students financial education in an interactive and engaging way. Participating community partners include the local daycare, grocery store, insurance office, banks, electricity provider, technical college, school counselors, and volunteers from the local community collaborative.

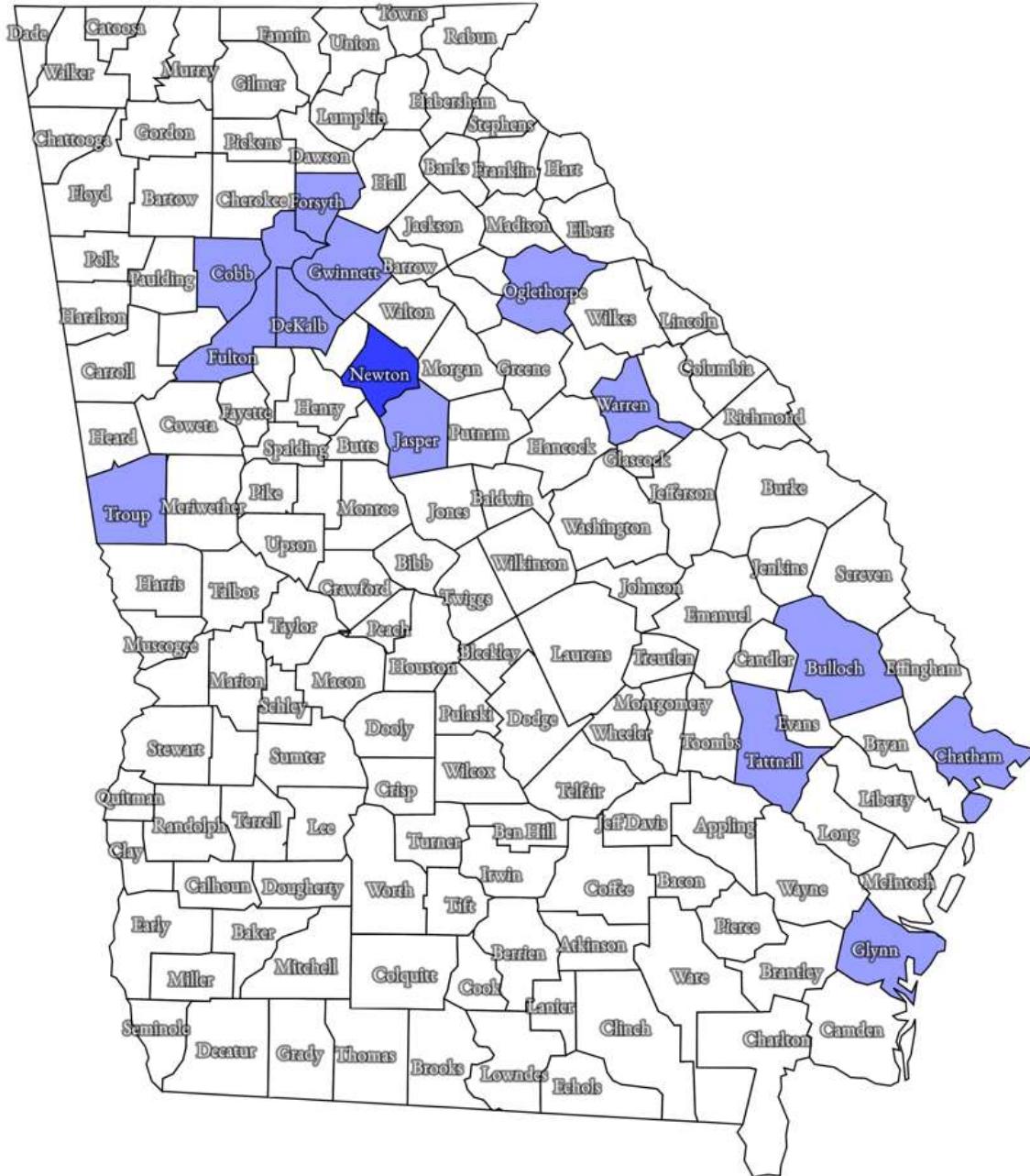


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Map of Recommendations



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Demographics of Recommendations

Grantee	Amount	White %	Black %	Latino %	Other	ELL	ED
Charles R. Drew Charter School of Atlanta Public Schools	\$25,000	30%	59%	5%	6%	0%	3%
CSRA of Georgia in partnership with Warren County Schools	\$20,000	13%	82%	1%	4%	0%	100%
Georgia College & State University in partnership with Newton County Schools and Bulloch County Schools	\$25,000	58%	35%	3%	4%	0%	65%
Gwinnett Intervention Education Center (GIVE) Center West of Gwinnett County Public Schools	\$25,000	7%	39%	48%	6%	26%	67%
Hope Givers in partnership with Troup County Schools	\$20,000	41%	43%	8%	7%	5%	69%
Jasper County Primary School of Jasper County Charter System	\$25,000	68%	15%	11%	6%	7%	25%
The Literacy Lab in partnership with Paul L. Dunbar Elementary School	\$20,000	0%	94%	3%	3%	2%	11%
Marietta High School of Marietta City Schools	\$25,000	18%	38%	37%	6%	12%	21%
Newton County Schools	\$20,000	24%	60%	10%	6%	5%	67%
Oglethorpe County High School of Oglethorpe County Schools	\$25,000	61%	19%	13%	6%	3%	18%
Otwell Middle School of Forsyth County Schools	\$4,101	45%	5%	40%	10%	31%	14%
Satilla Marsh Elementary School of Glynn County Schools	\$4,947	72%	15%	6%	6%	1%	18%
Tattnall County High School of Tattnall County Schools	\$3,675	50%	26%	20%	4%	4%	78%

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University of North Georgia Research Foundation, Inc.	\$20,000	29%	12%	55%	6%	35%	45%
YMCA of Coastal Georgia in partnership with SCCPS	\$25,000	21%	57%	13%	9%	7%	42%
TOTAL/Avg	\$287,723	36%	40%	18%	6%	9%	43%

GEORGIA VS. RECOMMENDATIONS		WHITE %	BLACK %	LATINO %	OTHER	ELL	ED
ALL SCHOOLS		37%	36%	18%	9%	10%	45%
RECOMMENDATIONS		36%	40%	18%	6%	9%	43%

Programmatic Details of Recommendations

RECOMMENDATION	GRADE BAND	METRO/RURAL/ NONRURAL	CSI SCHOOL	GRANT FOCUS	PRIORITY AREA
Charles R. Drew Charter School of Atlanta Public Schools	Elementary	Metro	No	Learning Loss	Mastering Literacy & Numeracy
CSRA of Georgia in partnership with Warren County Schools	All	Rural	No	Literacy	Mastering Literacy & Numeracy
Georgia College & State University in partnership with Newton County Schools and Bulloch County Schools	High	Nonrural	No	STEAM	Students Prepared for Local Workforce Opportunities
Gwinnett Intervention Education Center (GIVE) Center West of Gwinnett County Public Schools	High	Metro	Yes	Mental Health	Safe & Healthy Students
Hope Givers in partnership with Troup County Schools	All	Nonrural	Yes	Mental Health	Safe & Healthy Students
Jasper County Primary School of Jasper County Charter System	Elementary	Rural	No	STEAM	Equitable Opportunities for Every Student
The Literacy Lab in partnership with Paul L. Dunbar Elementary School	Elementary	Metro	Yes	Literacy	Mastering Literacy & Numeracy
Marietta High School of Marietta City Schools	High	Metro	No	STEAM	Students Prepared for Local

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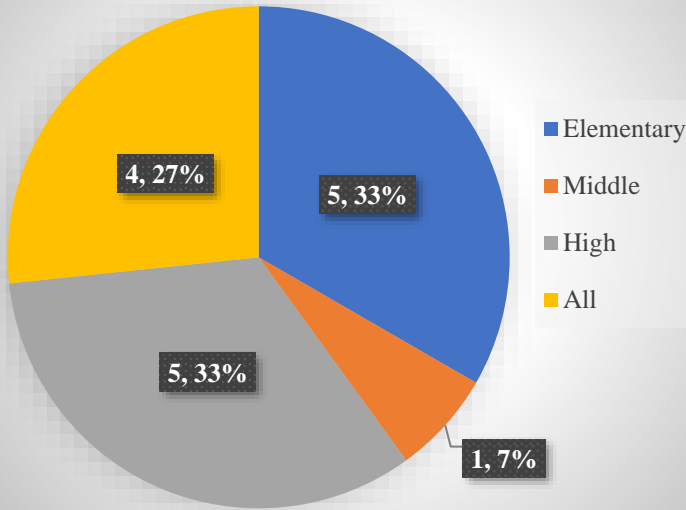
					Workforce Opportunities
Newton County Schools	All	Nonrural	No	Computer Science	Equitable Opportunities for Every Student
Oglethorpe County High School of Oglethorpe County Schools	High	Rural	No	Computer Science	Students Prepared for Local Workforce Opportunities
Otwell Middle School of Forsyth County Schools	Middle	Metro	No	STEAM	Equitable Opportunities for Every Student
Satilla Marsh Elementary School of Glynn County Schools	Elementary	Nonrural	No	CTAE	Students Prepared for Local Workforce Opportunities
Tattnall County High School of Tattnall County Schools	High	Rural	No	CTAE	Students Prepared for Local Workforce Opportunities
University of North Georgia Research Foundation, Inc.	All	Nonrural	Yes	Teacher Pipeline	Equitable Opportunities for Every Student
YMCA of Coastal Georgia in partnership with SCCPSS	Elementary	Nonrural	Yes	Art	Mastering Literacy & Numeracy

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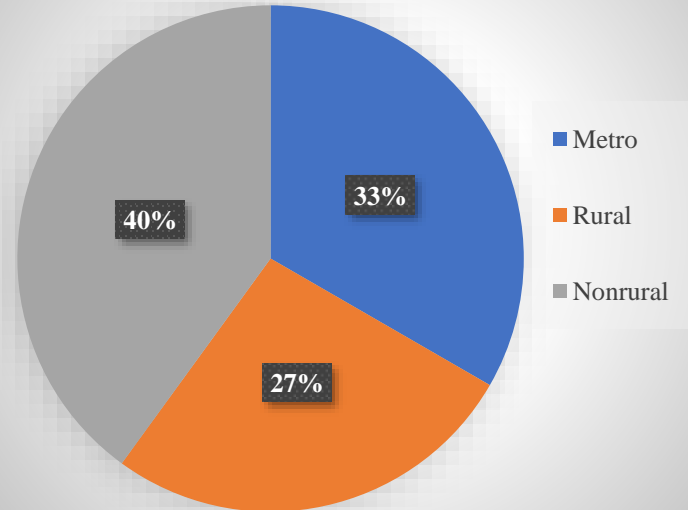
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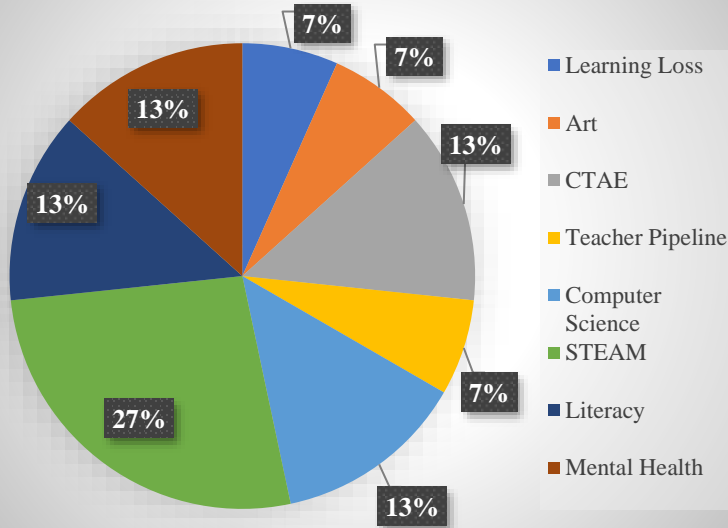
Recommendations by Grade Band



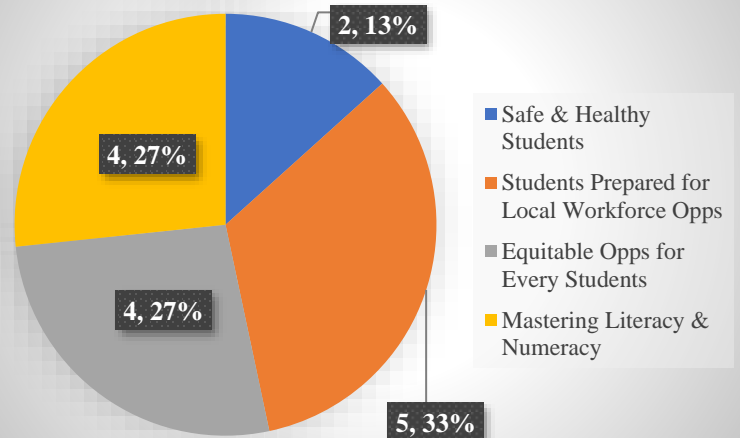
Recommendations by Region



Recommendations by Grant Focus



Recommendations by Priority Area



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Profile of 2023 & 2022 Applications

	PROTOTYPE GRANT APPS	EXPANSION GRANT APPS	MINI GRANT APPS	TOTALS
2023 Total Funding Request	\$1,203,750	\$700,001	\$169,849	\$2,073,600
<i>2022 Funding Request</i>	\$878,098	N/A	\$172,920	\$1,051,018
2023 Metro/Rural/Nonrural	Metro: 23 Rural: 11 Nonrural: 16	Metro: 18 Rural: 5 Nonrural: 13	Metro: 19 Rural: 9 Nonrural: 9	Metro: 60 Rural: 25 Nonrural: 38
<i>2022 Metro/Rural/Nonrural</i>	<i>Metro: 9 Rural: 11 Nonrural: 28</i>	N/A	<i>Metro: 12 Rural: 10 Nonrural: 16</i>	<i>Metro: 21 Rural: 21 Nonrural: 44</i>
2023 Number of Applicants	50	36	37	123
<i>2022 Number of Applicants</i>	48	N/A	38	86

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