



2026-2027 Performance, Innovation, and Improvement Grant Application

OVERVIEW OF THE GRANT AND APPLICATION

OCCS invites the governing authorities of currently authorized schools to apply for funding for initiatives that advance goals in their Performance and Accountability Plan. Use this application to explain the need, expected results, implementation plan, capacity, and proposed costs. The governing authority is the grant recipient and is responsible for oversight of the award.

Application Submission and Award Timeline

Completed applications and questions should be submitted electronically to grants@ohioschools.org.

To be eligible for the award cycle, completed applications must be received by November 6, 2026. Please limit the length of the entire application to five to ten pages.

Since each grant is an award between OCCS and the governing authority of the school, there will be additional instructions about the monitoring and reporting on the grant deliverables.

Main Point of Contact Information

Please provide the name and email address of the contacts below. The school contact and implementation contact may be the same person.

Board President:

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

School Contact:

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Operator Contact:

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Scoring the Applications

OCCS staff members will score the application and make recommendation to the OCCS External Affairs and Initiatives Committee.

The scoring rubric outlines expectations for the application and explains the various scores given in each section. The responses for each component will receive a score in alignment with the following:

Exceeds Standard (3 Points): Fully meets the criteria and makes a compelling, well-supported case using relevant evidence.

Meets Standard (2 Points): Clearly and completely addresses the criteria, uses appropriate evidence, and aligns with the school's goals.

Does Not Meet Standard (1 Point): Partially addresses the criteria; evidence or links to the proposed outcomes are unclear or insufficient.

Falls Far Below Standard (0 Points): Missing or substantially incomplete response with little or no supporting evidence.

Section One: Description of Initiative and Current Needs

Responses should provide a high-level overview of the proposed initiative and current academic programs as well as culture at the community school. Applicants should address the following:

- A. Describe the school's current need using relevant academic, special education, financial, compliance, governance, or other data. Identify the students or school functions affected.
- B. Describe the proposed initiative and explain how it addresses the identified need and advances the school's mission.
- C. Summarize related past or current improvement efforts. What results did they produce, and what did the school learn?

Section Two: Description of Intended Outcomes and Evaluation Plan

Responses should include an evaluation plan outlining the intended outcomes. Applicants should address the following:

- A. Identify the specific goals in the charter contract or Performance and Accountability Plan that this initiative supports. Describe the expected effect on student achievement or operational performance.
- B. State measurable outcomes, the baseline for each measure, the target, the data source, and when results will be reviewed.

- C. Explain how the initiative builds on current work. Describe any matching funds, partner support, or related efforts and how they will be coordinated.
- D. Explain how progress, spending, and results will be reported to the governing authority and OCCS, including the person responsible and reporting frequency.

Section Three: Project Plan and Timeline

Responses must include a brief project narrative plan and a description of the project timeline for implementing the initiative.

- A. Describe the main implementation steps, the individuals responsible, and the sequence of purchasing, training, and delivery after an award.

Section Four: Capacity to Implement

Applicants must clearly demonstrate the capacity to implement the initiative. Relevant data to substantiate this capacity must be provided and should include:

- A. Describe how the school identified this need and what work has already begun. Explain the staff expertise, training, governance oversight, and partner roles available to carry out the project.
- B. Explain how the school will maintain the benefits of the initiative after grant funding ends, including any continuing costs and their anticipated funding source.

Section Five: Budget

Complete the table provided and detail how the funds will be expended. Important items to note:

- List each planned expenditure and explain its role in the initiative.
- If other funding will support the project, identify its source and amount.
- Evidence of pricing (direct quotes from vendors) must be provided for each item.

Budget

	Item with Explanation	Item Cost	Quantity	Total Cost
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
10.				
11.				
12.				
13.				
14.				
15.				
TOTAL COST OF THE INITIATIVE:				
OTHER FUNDING RESOURCES:				
TOTAL BEING REQUESTED FROM OCCS:				