Golden State Pathways Program
Planning Grants and Implementation Grants
Requests for Applications



**Application Due Date:**

**March 19, 2024**

Administered by the:

Career and College Transition Division

California Department of Education

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## Introduction

The Golden State Pathways Program (GSPP) was established to promote pathways in technology, health care, education, climate-related fields, and other high-wage, high-skill, and high-growth industries. GSPP will support pupils in transitioning from high school to college and career and provide the workforce necessary for economic growth in California. The program encourages collaboration between local educational agencies (LEAs), institutions of higher education, employers, and community partners to develop, and/or expand innovative college and career pathways in alignment with state and regional labor market needs. The Legislature appropriated $500 million for the GSPP, and California *Education Code* (*EC*) Section 53025 (b) allows for up to 5 percent of the funds ($25 million) to be used for technical assistance centers, 10 percent of the funds ($50 million) to be used by the California Department of Education (CDE) to award consortium and planning grants, and 85 percent of the funds ($425 million) to be used for implementation grants.

Pathways connect and align all aspects of instruction to support a unified strategy for preparing students for success in college and career. The GSPP will enable more pupils to access career-focused programs and when combined with guidance and support services, leads to postsecondary education and gainful employment in target industry sectors. Finally, the GSPP will support the continued development of a diverse, skilled, and educated workforce.[[1]](#footnote-1) For detailed information on the GSPP Framework, applicants may refer to Appendix I: GSPP Framework, Appendix B: GSPP Program Requirements and Legislation, and GSPP California *Education Code* sections53020 – 53025 available at <https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displayText.xhtml?lawCode=EDC&division=4.&title=2.&part=28.&chapter=16.1.&article=>.In the awarding of grants, applications submitted by“high-priority local education agencies” in “high-priority pathways” such as Education, including early education and child development, Computer Science, Health care, and Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics, and pathways focusing on climate resilience will be prioritized as outlined in*EC* sections 53022 (a) and 53025 (f).

According to *EC* Section 53022 (a), “High-priority local educational agency” means a local educational agency that meets any of the following criteria:

* 1. Fifty percent or more of the enrolled pupils at the local educational agency are unduplicated pupils, as defined in Section 42238.02.
	2. The local educational agency has a higher than state average dropout rate.
	3. The local educational agency has a higher than state average rate of suspension and a higher than state average rate of expulsion.
	4. The local educational agency has higher than state average rates of child homelessness, foster youth, or justice-involved youth.
	5. The local educational agency has a lower than state average rate of pupils completing all of the A–G courses required to be eligible for admission to the University of California or the California State University.

According to *EC* Section 53025 (f) In awarding grants pursuant to this chapter, the Superintendent shall prioritize applications submitted by a high-priority local educational agency that seeks to establish pathways programs in the following areas:

* 1. Education, including early education and child development.
	2. Computer science.
	3. Health care.
	4. Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics pathways that also focus on climate resilience.

## Program Timeline

| **Date** | **Activity** |
| --- | --- |
| January 30, 2024 | RFA Release Date |
| February 13, 2024 | RFA Technical Assistance Webinar |
| March 19, 2024 | All applications must be **received** by the CDE |
| April 9, 2024 | Grants Announced |
| April 23, 2024 | Appeals must be **received** by the CDE |

## Eligibility Criteria

### **California *Education* *Code* Section 53023**

Statute requires the department to administer the GSPP as a competitive grant program. LEAs can apply for both the planning grants and the implementation grants. LEAs are defined as school district, charter school, county office of education, or regional occupational center or program operated by a joint powers authority or county office of education. To be eligible to receive a grant award, grant recipients shall commit to providing participating pupils with all the expected outcomes identified in Appendix E: GSPP Grant Application Narrative.

1. Planning Grants are for LEAs that want to develop and establish a career focus program or pathway. These LEAs should consider applying for a planning grant. Eligibility for a GSPP Planning Grant requires submitting a separate Planning and Implementation Grant application.
2. Implementation Grants are for LEAs that have existing career focus programs, courses, or pathways that have been integrated that want to expand, enhance, or continue these programs. These LEAs should consider applying for an implementation grant. Eligibility for a GSPP Implementation Grant requires submitting a separate Planning and Implementation Grant application.
3. Consortium grants are for (LEA) Lead Applicants and two or more program partners that want to develop, support, and establish career program opportunities or pathways. These program partners should consider applying for a consortium grant. Eligibility for a GSPP Consortium grant requires submitting a separate Consortium application.

## Funding

According to *EC* Section 53025 (c), in determining the grant amounts for an implementation grant and for a consortium development and planning grant, the Superintendent, in consultation with the executive director of the state board, shall consider all of the following:

* The number of pupils enrolled by the applicant.
* The number of pathways programs proposed to be established or expanded by the applicant and the number of schoolsites that would participate in the pathways program.
* The estimated number of pupils that would be enrolled in the applicant’s pathways programs.
* The number of entities collaborating with the applicant to achieve the goal outlined in subdivision (a) of Section 53021.

For the CDE to determine grant amounts, provide the above information in Appendix C: Local Education Agency Data Report. See Appendix C for details.

The GSPP offers two different funding opportunities including Planning Grants and Implementation Grants. See Appendix E1: Planning Grant and Implementation Grant Definitions for definitions.

1. **Planning Grants** support development and planning of activities outlined in Appendix E: GSPP Grant Application Narrative and Appendix I: GSPP Framework leading to high-quality college and career pathways programs.

**Grant Period:** April 2, 2024, through June 30, 2025

**Funding Amount:** Up to $200,000

1. **Implementation Grants** support implementation and maintenance of activities outlined in Appendix E: GSPP Grant Application Narrative and Appendix I: GSPP Framework leading to high-quality college and career pathways programs.

**Grant Period:** April 2, 2024, through June 30, 2028

**Funding Amount:** Up to $500,000

## Golden State Pathways Program Expenditure Guidelines

Golden State Pathways Program (GSPP) grant funds must only be spent to develop, expand, or improve high-quality college and career pathway opportunities. GSPP funds must be used in accordance with *EC* sections 53020–53025. GSPP funds shall not supplant other funds expended for educational services and activities.

**GSPP Allowable Expenditures:** Allowable items may include, but are not limited to, those listed below:

**Golden State Pathways Program – Allowable Costs**

| **General Items Description** | **Allowable Status** |
| --- | --- |
| Facility Costs: Modification, maintenance, and repair costs of facilities if directly related to GSPP college and career pathways and with CDE approval (i.e., modifying an automotive repair facility to include electric vehicle repair capabilities). Facility projects must be completed within the grant term. | Allowable with CDE Approval |
| Field trips/student travel must be tied to college and career pathway activities. (Lodging, food, or individual transportation is non-allowable expenditure for students). | Allowable |
| Food/drink purchases at meetings/conferences NOT hosted by grantee. | Allowable |
| Furniture – Not used in a typical classroom (i.e., specialized cabinets to store pathway specific equipment) | Allowable |
| Instructional supplies, equipment, and materials directly related to the GSPP, such as books and classroom technology. | Allowable |
| Substitute costs for staff to attend conferences/workshops, field trips, professional development, or release days for program and/or curriculum development. | Allowable |
| Travel and lodging for staff to participate in GSPP related activities (Out-of-state is an allowable expenditure) | Allowable |
| Uniforms/clothing considered part of a required uniform are allowable at a reasonable cost. These items may not be kept by the students. (T-shirts are not allowed). | Allowable |

| **Guidance and Advisement** | **Allowable Status** |
| --- | --- |
| Career guidance and counseling, such as: salary for additional counseling personnel to provide a comprehensive career guidance and counseling program and further pupil support services for GSPP career, academic, and social and emotional needs. | Allowable |
| Marketing, recruitment, and outreach activities (newspapers, radio/TV, magazines, social media) that is directed toward all GSPP college and career pathways. | Allowable |

| **Programs** | **Allowable Status** |
| --- | --- |
| Career Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs) related costs (instructional materials): advisor expenses (transportation and registration), student transportation and registration to state and national CTSO leadership conferences (offer to all CTSO students) | Allowable |
| Electronic Instructional Materials - Subscription-based fees that supplement the GSPP | Allowable |
| Equipment (single items greater than $5,000 and with a useful life of at least one year) – Prior approval needed | Allowable with CDE Approval |
| Rental/lease costs of equipment directly related to GSPP | Allowable |
| Software – directly related to college and career pathways | Allowable  |
| Technical skills assessments (industry-recognized certification exams/assessments) (offer to all students, not individual) | Allowable |

**GSPP Unallowable expenditures:** Unallowable items may include, but are not limited to, those listed below:

| Golden State Pathways Program – Unallowable Expenditures | Unallowable Status |
| --- | --- |
| Construction of facilities. Construction costs and materials for a new permanent structure (e.g., additional building). (See allowable expenditures for modification of facility guidelines.) | Unallowable |
| Dues/memberships for staff to professional organizations or societies | Unallowable |
| Entertainment activities or events costs such as: meals, banquets, transportation, gratuities, and lodging. | Unallowable |
| Furniture - typical classroom (chairs, desks, bookcases, etc. typical to a traditional classroom setup.) | Unallowable |
| Gift of public funds: Any item which becomes the individual property of a student or staff | Unallowable |
| Items retained by students (supplies, clothing/uniform, tools, PDAs, calculators) | Unallowable |
| Lodging, food, or individual transportation for students | Unallowable |
| Monetary awards | Unallowable |
| Promotional items, such as T-shirts, pens, cups, key chains, etc. | Unallowable |
| Purchase or lease of buildings, or construction of new buildings/facilities, which are NOT part of the GSPP college and career pathways. | Unallowable |
| Purchase or lease of passenger vehicles (that are NOT part of the college and career pathways). | Unallowable |
| Remedial courses (courses designed to provide instruction in reading, writing, and mathematics for students who have not acquired the basic skills necessary to succeed in general or career education) | Unallowable |
| Paying for student internships | Unallowable |
| Supplant existing funding or efforts, including costs otherwise necessary to operate a school or program without this grant.  | Unallowable |
| Travel out-of-country. (Travel out-of-state is allowable for GSPP college and career pathways) | Unallowable |
| Travel unrelated to GSPP college and career pathways  | Unallowable |

If you have questions regarding any of the allowable/unallowable items listed, please contact the GSPP team by email at GSPP@cde.ca.gov.

## Grant Application

The GSPP framework is geared to provide the guidance necessary for the creation of sustainable pathways that will prepare students for their future in postsecondary education or a high-skilled and high-wage occupation. For each expected outcome found in Appendix E: GSPP Grant Application Narrative, provide a detailed narrative covering the work plan, timeline, and proposed activities for the pathway(s) that will be included within the applicant’s GSPP grant.

In addition to providing narrative responses for each of the expected outcomes found in Appendix E: GSPP Grant Application Narrative, applicants are also required to develop and submit a detailed budget and budget narrative as outlined in Appendix F1: Planning Grant Budget and Budget Narrative and Appendix F2: Implementation Grant Budget and Budget Narrative.

Budgets should identify projected costs, directly linked to expected outcomes, and provide detailed justification for all proposed expenditures.

GSPP Regional Technical Assistance Centers (RTAC) are available to provide prospective applicants and grantees with feedback regarding the development of their planned application, implementation, and continuous improvement of their GSPP.

Instructions for Submitting the GSPP Grant Application

Email a digital copy of a signed application to GSPP@cde.ca.govon or before
March 19, 2024.

A complete application consists of the following components:

1. Application Signature Form (Appendices D1 Planning or D2 Implementation)
2. GSPP Grant Application Narrative (Appendix E)
3. Resume and/or job description of current or future staff **saved as a single PDF file.**
4. Grant Budget Page and Budget Narrative (Appendices F1 Planning or F2 Implementation).
5. Local Education Agency Data Report (Appendix C)

All interested applicants must complete the full GSPP Grant application for funding. Information and links to the GSPP Grant RFA can be found on the CDE Available Funding web page located at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/fg/fo/af/>. The costs of preparing and delivering an application are the sole responsibility of the applicant.

### **Reading and Scoring**

Each element of the GSPP Grant responses will be reviewed for the required elements that align and support the full implementation of the proposed plan. Reviewers will examine and approve applications with respect to each of the GSPP Grant plan elements. Each section of the core application narrative will be evaluated and assigned a score using the GSPP Grant Scoring Rubric (see Appendix G), which summarizes the required components of the GSPP grant work plan including narrative responses and aligned budget.

### **Application Requirements:**

Each Application must be **received** no later than March 19, 2024, inclusive of:

1. A digital copy of signed Application Signature Form (Appendices D1 Planning or D2 Implementation.
2. GSPP Grant Application Narrative (Appendix E) must be completed in full.
3. Resume(s) and/or job description(s) of current or future staff **saved as a single PDF file.**
4. Grant Budget Page and Budget Narrative (Appendices F1 Planning or F2 Implementation) must be completed in full.
5. Local Education Agency Data Report (Appendix C) **saved as a single PDF file.**

### **Appeals**

Appeals shall be limited to the grounds that the CDE failed to correctly apply the standards for reviewing the application as specified in this RFA. The appellant must file a full and complete written appeal, including the issue(s) in dispute, the legal authority or other basis for the appeal position, and the remedy sought. The CDE will not consider incomplete or late appeals. The appellant may not supply any new information that was not originally contained in the original application. The Division Director of the Career and College Transition Division will make the final decision in writing within three weeks of the date that appeals are due to CDE. That decision shall be the final administrative action afforded the appeal. All appeal decisions will be made prior to the final approval of the grants.

Applicants who wish to appeal a grant award decision must email a letter of appeal to GSPP@cde.ca.gov addressed to Pete Callas, Division Director:

GSPP Grant Appeals

Pete Callas, Division Director

Career and College Transition Division

California Department of Education

The CDE must receive a digital copy of the signedletter of appeal from an authorized applicant no later than **ten (10) business days after the day of the grant announcement**. Faxed letters will **not** be accepted.

## Program Appendices:

Appendix A: Budget Categories and Descriptions

Appendix B: Program Requirements and Legislation

Appendix C: Local Education Agency Data Report

Appendix D1: Planning Grant Application Signature Form

Appendix D2: Implementation Grant Application Signature Form

Appendix E: GSPP Grant Application Narrative

Appendix E1: Planning Grant and Implementation Grant Definitions

Appendix F1: Planning Grant Budget and Budget Narrative

Appendix F2: Implementation Grant Budget and Budget Narrative

Appendix G: GSPP Grant Scoring Rubric

Appendix H: GSPP Grant Application Checklist

Appendix I: GSPP Framework

Appendix J: GSPP Expenditure Guidelines

Posted by the California Department of Education – January 2024

1. Golden State Pathways Program Framework, California Department of Education, 2022, 2. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)