

# Considerations for Grant Applications: How SPPS decides which grants to pursue

**When considering whether or not to develop a grant proposal, SPPS administration and grants staff must consider the following.**

## 1. Strategic Alignment

Does the project support the Strong Schools, Strong Communities 2.0 strategic plan, or meet the strategic priorities of a SCIP or similar work plan?

## 2. Research-Based

Is the project grounded in research and best or proven practices? Will it result in new knowledge of interest or use to SPPS?

## 3. Capacity to Implement

Can the district implement this project without increased burden or expense?

## 4. Meets a Need

Does the project meet a reasonable need, or is it “chasing money”?

## 5. Capacity to Pursue

Do staff have sufficient time available for staff to coordinate strategic planning, application development and submission without undue burden (usually four to six weeks)?

## 6. Broad Internal Support

Do staff responsible for implementing and administering the project believe in the work and its ability to address need(s) and bring about intended outcomes?

## 7. Cost Effective

Can and will the district meet any additional expenses necessary to implement the project (matching costs, construction, installation, etc.)?

## 8. Sustainability and Capacity Building

Grants should build the capacity of the school or program and not create an ongoing funding need. This is especially true for grants intended to support staff salaries - positions do not last beyond the grant period.

## Possible Outcomes

### Affirmative in all areas

Project is likely ready to be developed into a full grant proposal

### Mixed affirmative/negative

Project is not ready for full development; something is not in alignment. Possibilities include:

- **Management Structure**  
review school/program/people involved
- **Capacity**  
district may simply not be ready
- **Project plan or content**  
review need and activities
- **Partners or consultant mismatch**
- **Motivation/evaluation**  
review goals and outcomes

### All Negative

Project will not be developed into a grant proposal

## Next Steps

### GO!

The grants team will coordinate meetings and work sessions for planning, application development, submission and, if funded, acceptance and management of grant.

### Mixed affirmative/negative:

**Option A) Apply Now, Limited Support** – Program or school may apply but will be responsible for meetings and work sessions for strategic planning and application development. The Grants team will review final draft, secure approvals and submit application.

**Option B) Apply Next Time** – Continue working on areas with the intention of applying in a few months. The grants team will meet with you to strengthen project plans at your request.