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| **Name of Grant Program:** FY23 Innovation Pathways Implementation and Support Grant | **Fund Code:** 419  |

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| **PART III – REQUIRED PROGRAM INFORMATION** |

**Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Massachusetts Executive Office of Education**

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**Innovation Pathways**

**Implementation and Support Grant Application for Current Designees
Summer 2022**

# **Innovation Pathways Defined**

For over thirty years, educators, employers, community-based organizations and government agencies have collaborated to develop and implement Career Pathways strategies. Early models focused primarily on youth-oriented vocational education programs and academies with strong contextualized instruction. Those efforts have transitioned to wider and deeper Career Technical Education efforts championed by the US Department of Education.

Over the last decade new career pathway implementation models supported by the US Department of Labor, US Chamber of Commerce and National Governors Association have focused on meeting high demand workforce needs. In July of 2014, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) was enacted to support industry, education and workforce system to collaborate to build systematic solutions to provide career opportunities in high demand fields.

These Career Pathway programs include strong industry engagement, secondary and post-secondary partnerships, and are constructed to align to local, regional or states sector based economic development initiatives. The programs often feature customized approaches to meeting the unique needs of specific student populations coupled with industry sector relevant academic, career and work-related experiences.

**Innovation Pathways are structures within our high schools that are designed to connect student learning to a broadly-defined industry sector that is in demand in the regional and state economy. Schools will leverage strong partnerships with employers to provide students career awareness and work-based learning activities. Students will participate in a series of courses and experiences relevant to achieving industry recognized credentials. Participation in this kind of pathway can lead students to opportunities for meaningful careers in that industry sector upon the completion of needed postsecondary education and training.**

Massachusetts’ Innovation Pathways draw on three decades of successful practices and are designed to support schools to enhance a student’s ability to gain awareness and preparedness of future employment opportunities, fully prepare academically, and make informed choices related to post-secondary pathways in the industry of their interest.

State agencies will work collaboratively with schools and districts to provide students with equitable access to a pathway deemed a strong individualized fit, with on and off ramps across different pathways throughout high school, ensure that they graduate with a well-designed post-secondary plan, and a robust knowledge of Massachusetts’ workforce opportunities with realities for employment.

The related Pathway designation approval process has been designed collaboratively by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and Executive Office of Education to ensure that new college and career pathways are carefully designed to offer high quality preparation for college and career in alignment with the Strengthening Career Technical Education in the 21st Century Act (Perkins V) requirements, which was signed into law effective July 1, 2019.

**Five Guiding Principles**

In [January 2017](http://www.doe.mass.edu/boe/docs/FY2017/2017-01/joint-itemI1.html), the Boards of Elementary and Secondary Education and Higher Education jointly approved five **Guiding Principles** for Early College pathways that are also fully relevant to Innovation pathways. To receive designation as either type, an applicant will be required to demonstrate that its pathways are rooted in all five of these guiding principles:

## **Guiding Principle 1: Equitable Access**

*Designated programs should prioritize students underrepresented in education enrollment and completion. To facilitate this, programs should be structured to eliminate barriers to student participation. Design might therefore include, but not be limited to, tuition-free participation, open enrollment without regard to prior academic performance, student supports to promote success, scalability, multiple entry points for students, and student supports to prepare students for entry into the program.*

## **Guiding Principle 2: Guided Academic Pathways**

*Designated programs should be structured around clear and detailed student academic pathways from secondary to post-secondary education with regard to coursework, sequencing, and experiences beyond the classroom. Programs should offer students substantive exposure to career opportunities in high demand fields, allowing them to make an informed decision about which career pathway to pursue.  Students should also be exposed to the authentic experience and academic rigor of postsecondary education.*

## **Guiding Principle 3: Enhanced Student Support**

*Designated programs should incorporate sufficient wraparound services to promote academic success and course completion, taking into consideration the needs of diverse populations of students.*

## **Guiding Principle 4: Connection to Career**

*Designated programs should expose students to a variety of career opportunities, including greater depth in careers relevant to their selected pathway, by providing, for example, opportunities for targeted workforce and career skills development, career counseling, and elements of experiential and work-based learning.*

## **Guiding Principle 5: Effective Partnerships**

*Innovation Pathways require a formal partnership with a workforce development board (*[*MassHire*](https://www.mass.gov/about-masshire)*) and one or more employers or an employer association. Programs should be sufficient in size to capture economies of scale goals and to ensure long-term sustainability.*

# **Innovation Pathway Support Grant Purpose**

The purpose of the grant is to provide Innovation Pathway program resources to an LEA who has achieved Innovation Pathway designation from DESE. This grant shall **not** be used to fund capital expenses, including technology and equipment.

# **Innovation Pathway Support Grant Eligibility and Funding**

To qualify for competitive funding, applicants must have received Innovation Pathway Designation from DESE in 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, or 2022. An LEA may submit only one application. Please see the Appendix within this packet that lists eligible districts and funding amounts for each district.

# **Primary Contact**

* Jennifer Gwatkin, Office for College, Career, and Technical Education, DESE
jennifer.a.gwatkin@mass.gov; (781) 338-3954

# **Innovation Pathway Support Grant Timeline**

***Application Schedule***

| Request for Proposals Released  | August 2022 |
| --- | --- |
| Proposals due via email to pathways@doe.mass.edu, by no later than 5:00 pm.  | See Grant Proposal |
| Projected Grant Awards Announcement  | Upon Approval  |
| Anticipated Contract Start Date  | Upon Approval |
| Contract End Date  | June 30, 2023 |

# **Innovation Pathway Support Grant Evaluation**

Applicants must demonstrate in their responses below how support grant funds from the state will help the applicants execute on their designation plan such that the Innovation Pathway program meets all Innovation Pathways criteria requirements. Submissions will be screened for completeness, conformity to the program requirements, and timeliness of response. Submissions that are incomplete, non-conforming, or late may not be considered. Reviewers will confirm the eligibility of each applicant, evaluate and score all eligible submissions on a 100-point scoring rubric. Applications will be scored based on the quality of the applicants’ plans for the use of the requested funds to support the pathway consistent with the Designation Criteria. Preference may be given to an LEA who has not received Innovation Pathway Implementation or Support Grants in the past.

## *Applicant and Partner Information*

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| **The lead applicant for an Innovation Pathway Support Grant must be a LEA with an Innovation Pathway program that was designated by DESE in 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, or 2022.** |
| **Lead Applicant name:** |  |
| **Applicant contact:** |  |  |  |  |
| *Name* | *Title* | *Phone* | *Email* |
| **Mailing Address**: |  |
| *Street Address*  |
|  |  |  |
| *City* | *State* | *ZIP* |
| **Phone/Email:** |  |  |
| *Preferred Phone* | *Email Address* |
| **Has the school applied for and/or received a Skills Capital grant to support equipment expenses associated with the newly designated Innovation Pathways program?** | Yes [ ]  No [ ]  |
| **In Spring 2022 did your school apply for funding to purchase equipment for the newly designated Innovation Pathway program via the FY23 Skills Capital Grant Program?** | Yes [ ]  No [ ]  |
| **Does your school currently receive Perkins funding to support your Innovation Pathways program?** | Yes [ ] No [ ]  |
| **In applying for the Innovation Pathways 2022-2023 Support Grant, the school agrees to actively participate in Innovation Pathways Community of Practice.** | Yes [ ] *Applicant Indicates Agreement* |
| **The applicant agrees to share their work with the Innovation Pathways Community of Practice, so as to illustrate how structures and systems are being established for long-term success.** | Yes [ ] *Applicant Indicates Agreement* |

## *Grant Application Narrative (80 Points)*

1. What are your program’s three greatest implementation challenges? Please describe each challenge and primary consideration for solutions. (15 Points)

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1. How will this funding from the state help you address the challenges identified above (see question one) and ensure that you fulfill designation requirements? (15 Points)

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1. How will this funding from the state support your school’s Innovation Pathway’s engagement with industry and support providing work-based learning opportunities for students? (10 points)

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1. If your school is seeking funding to offer students industry recognized credentials, please identify these credentials; describe the rationale for offering the chosen credentials; indicate the number of students implicated; and identify the total cost associated with the provision of the credentials. (10 points)

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1. If your school is seeking funding to cover the costs associated with student participation in dual-enrollment courses, please indicate the higher education partner; the courses being offered; course rates; the number of students enrolled in the courses; and the total credits that would be supported by this funding. (10 points)

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1. For each line item in the budget below, please indicate how these funds will support organization /coordination in meeting the Innovation Pathway designation criteria and planning for growth of the program. (10 Points)

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1. What outcomes/deliverables will you see at the end of the grant period (June 30, 2023)? Who will be responsible for ensuring that these outcomes are met? (10 Points)

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1. Innovation Pathways programs that serve [greater than 50% low income students](https://profiles.doe.mass.edu/statereport/selectedpopulations.aspx) will be eligible for additional funds (up to $5,000) in FY23. DESE will use the October 2022 [Student Information Management System (SIMS)](https://www.doe.mass.edu/infoservices/data/sims/default.html) collection to determine a program’s eligibility and will issue awards accordingly via a grant amendment process. Please describe your plan for using any additional dollars, should they become available to the program.

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## *Budget for Funding (20 Points)*

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| **Applicant Name:**  |
| **A. Salaries and Benefits** | **Rate $ per Hour** | **# of Hours** | **Total** |
| Administrator |   |   |   |
| Project Coordinator |   |   |   |
| High School Teacher Stipends |   |   |   |
| Post-Secondary Faculty Stipends |   |   |   |
| Support Staff |   |   |   |
| Fringe Benefits |   |   |   |
| **Total Salaries and Benefits** |  |  |  **$ -**  |
|  |  |  |  |
| **B. Contractual Services** | **Rate $ per Hour** | **# of Hours** | **Total** |
| describe |   |   |   |
| describe |   |   |   |
| describe |   |   |   |
| **Total Contractual Services** |  |  |  **$ -**  |
|  |  |  |  |
| **C. Other** |  |  | **Total** |
| Travel |   |   |   |
| Instructional Related Supplies and Materials |   |   |   |
| Other Supplies and Materials – NOT including equipment\* |   |   |   |
| describe |   |   |   |
| describe |   |   |   |
| describe |   |   |   |
| **Other Total** |  |  |  **$ -**  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Grant Request Sub Total (Section A + B + C)** |  |  |  **$ -**  |
| Indirect Costs (10% Maximum) |   |   |   |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Grant Request Total**  |  |  |  **$ -**  |
| ***(See Appendix for your district’s specified maximum request.)*** |  |  |
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\***This application is not for capital expenses, e.g. technology and equipment**. If requesting funding for equipment, please consider the [Executive Office of Education’s Skills Capital Grant Program](https://www.mass.gov/service-details/massachusetts-skills-capital-grant-program).

**Appendix – Eligible Districts with Maximum Grant Amounts**

***See right column for your program’s maximum request amount.***

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| **LEA Code** | **Eligible Grantee** | **FY23 AWARD ELIGIBILITY Y1 Implementation + Support (for programs in Y2 and beyond)** |
| **0005** | **Agawam Public Schools** | **$125,000** |
| **0491** | **Atlantis Charter School** | **$50,000** |
| **0016** | **Attleboro Public Schools** | **$50,000** |
| **0020** | **Barnstable Public Schools** | **$125,000** |
| **0025** | **Bellingham Public Schools** | **$75,000** |
| **0618** | **Berkshire Hills Regional School District** | **$50,000** |
| **0035** | **Boston Public Schools (Dearborn STEM)** | **$50,000** |
| **0035** | **Boston Public Schools (Excel High School - S. Boston)** | **$125,000** |
| **0035** | **Boston Public Schools (Jeremiah Burke)** | **$75,000** |
| **0035** | **Boston Public Schools (Brighton High School)** | **$75,000** |
| **0036** | **Bourne Public Schools** | **$75,000** |
| **0044** | **Brockton Public Schools**  | **$50,000** |
| **0048** | **Burlington Public Schools** | **$50,000** |
| **0052** | **Carver Public Schools** | **$125,000** |
| **0056** | **Chelmsford Public Schools** | **$125,000** |
| **0057** | **Chelsea Public Schools** | **$50,000** |
| **0071** | **Danvers Public Schools** | **$50,000** |
| **0645** | **Dennis-Yarmouth Public Schools** | **$50,000** |
| **0658** | **Dudley Charlton Public Schools** | **$50,000** |
| **0093** | **Everett Public Schools** | **$50,000** |
| **0097** | **Fitchburg Public Schools** | **$125,000** |
| **0067** | **Frontier Regional School District** | **$75,000** |
| **0103** | **Gardner Public Schools** | **$50,000** |
| **0103** | **Gardner Public Schools** | **$50,000** |
| **0674** | **Gill-Montague Regional School District** | **$50,000** |
| **0117** | **Hadley Public Schools** | **$50,000** |
| **0138** | **Hopedale Public Schools** | **$75,000** |
| **0128** | **Haverhill Public Schools** | **$125,000** |
| **0149** | **Lawrence Public Schools** | **$50,000** |
| **0152** | **Lenox Public Schools** | **$75,000** |
| **0160** | **Lowell Public Schools** | **$50,000** |
| **0172** | **Mashpee Public Schools** | **$50,000** |
| **0177** | **Medway Public Schools** | **$75,000** |
| **0197** | **Nantucket Public Schools** | **$50,000** |
| **0210** | **Northampton Public Schools**  | **$125,000** |
| **0212** | **North Attleboro Public Schools** | **$75,000** |
| **0214** | **Northbridge Public Schools**  | **$50,000** |
| **0220** | **Norwood Public Schools**  | **$50,000** |
| **0778** | **Quaboag Regional School District** | **$75,000** |
| **0753** | **Quabbin Regional School District**  | **$50,000** |
| **0244** | **Randolph Public Schools** | **$75,000** |
| **0763** | **Somerset Berkley Regional School District**  | **$50,000** |
| **0281** | **Springfield Public Schools** | **$50,000** |
| **0291** | **Swampscott Public Schools** | **$50,000** |
| **0293** | **Taunton Public School** | **$50,000** |
| **0295** | **Tewksbury Public Schools** | **$50,000** |
| **0304** | **Uxbridge Public Schools** | **$50,000** |
| **0309** | **Ware Public Schools** | **$50,000** |
| **0316** | **Webster Public Schools** | **$50,000** |
| **0332** | **West Springfield Public Schools** | **$50,000** |
| **0325** | **Westfield Public Schools** | **$50,000** |
| **0347** | **Woburn Public Schools** | **$50,000** |
| **0348** | **Worcester Public Schools** | **$50,000** |