



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Eric G. Mackey, Ed.D.
 State Superintendent of Education

July 26, 2023

MEMORANDUM

TO: City and County Superintendents of Education

FROM: Eric G. Mackey *EJM*
 State Superintendent of Education

RE: Gifted Education Program - Act No. 2023-379 and ETF Budget Fiscal Year (FY) 2024

For the 2023-2024 school year, the Alabama Legislature set aside \$10.35 million for gifted education and each local education agency (LEA) receives funding based on Child Count. According to Act No. 2023-379, the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) will offer grants to LEAs for the purpose of developing new advanced educational and specialized programs for gifted or talented children. For the 2023-2024 school year, the cumulative disbursement will be based on a \$8.925 million budget allocation. The remaining \$1.425 will be awarded to LEAs through a competitive grant process.

The ALSDE will award available grants to public schools for the purpose of initiating new programs or continuing existing programs to offer advanced and specialized educational services to gifted or talented children. The maximum award for an applicant is \$30,000. The appropriate LEA must match five percent (5%) of any grant funds awarded by the ALSDE under this act.

To access the enclosed Application for Gifted and Talented Students Education Program, click on this link: [2023-2024 Grants for Gifted and Talented Education](#).

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Ashley Strickland at 334-694-4782.

EJM/AS/TZK

Enclosure

- cc: City and County Special Education Coordinators
 City and County Gifted Coordinators
 Mrs. Angela Martin
 Mrs. Shanthia Washington
 Dr. Brandon T. Payne
 Dr. DaLee Chambers
 Mrs. Erika Richburg
 Ms. Alicia Hodge
 Mrs. Ashley Strickland

FY23-2056

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APPLICATION PACKAGE FOR GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENTS EDUCATION PROGRAM

Authorized under
Alabama Act No. 2023-379

2023-2024

These instructions are provided to help prepare a grant application/proposal for gifted and talented programs for students in Grades K-12. Specific instructions are provided for key features and proposal requirements. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Ashley Strickland at 334-694-4782 or email at ashley.strickland@alsde.edu.



GRANTS FOR GIFTED AND TALENTED EDUCATION

Background and Guidelines for Applications

2023-2024

Authorizing Statute: Based on recent legislation, Act No. 2023-379, the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) will offer grants to local education agencies (LEAs) for the purpose of developing new advanced educational and specialized programs for gifted or talented children.

Appropriation: \$1,425,000 for FY 2024

Who is Eligible to Apply: All Alabama public school systems.

Funding Availability: The maximum award for an applicant is \$30,000.

Deadline for Grant Application: 4 p.m. on September 1, 2023.

Application Information

- A. Purpose:** The purpose of this grant is to support public schools in the development of new, advanced educational and specialized programs or continuing programs for gifted or talented children in Grades K-12.
- B. Grant Criteria:** The grant will be funded based on consideration of the following criteria:
- a. Grants should be awarded to programs specifically targeted towards gifted or talented children that meet the *Alabama Administrative Code (AAC)* criteria.
 - b. The quality of the proposed curriculum and personnel is a primary concern.
 - c. Preference is given to programs that are offered during the traditional school day or, alternatively, to programs that provide afterschool transportation.
 - d. Preference is given to students from traditionally underserved populations.
 - e. All programs awarded grants pursuant to this act must provide a means for assessing the impact of the program on participating students' academic growth.
 - f. The local board of education shall match up to five percent (5%) of any grant funds awarded by the department under this act.
- C. Grant Application Procedures:** The following procedures will be implemented:
- Grant applications must be received no later than **4 p.m. on September 1, 2023**.
 - Grant applications must be submitted electronically, and electronic signatures will be accepted. The grantee must confirm that the electronic file was received. Applicants will be notified if the grant application requires additional information via hard copy.
 - Grant applications will be reviewed and scored within four weeks of the receipt of the grant application.
 - A minimum of three reviewers will read and score each grant using a rubric based on the requirements of each grant.

- Grant applications submitted after available grant funds have been expended will not be read or scored. Applicants will be notified that all funds have been expended and that they may reapply during the next grant cycle.
- Grant applications submitted after the specified timeline will not be accepted and will be returned to the applicant along with a standard letter of explanation.
- Grant applications that do not meet the specified grant requirements will not be accepted and will be returned to the applicant along with a letter of explanation.

D. Application Timeline: Eligible applicants must submit a completed electronic application by **4 p.m. on September 1, 2023.**

The following is a tentative timeline for grant deadlines.

Tentative Timeline	
Event	Date
Application Deadline	September 1, 2023, by 4 p.m.
Application Review Deadline	October 6, 2023
Acceptance Notification	November 3, 2023
Grant Cycle	October 1, 2023 - September 30, 2024
Deadline for Project Completion	September 30, 2024
Final Analysis and Evaluation Deadline	September 30, 2024

- E. Award Conditions:** Funds for the project must be expended by September 30, 2024.
- F. Reporting Requirements:** A final analysis and evaluation must be submitted that summarizes the outcomes and Evidence of Success that is documented in the Evaluation.
- G. Rejection of Proposals:** The ALSDE reserves the right to reject any and all proposals as a result of this announcement and will do so if the proposal does not adhere to funding specifications or application preparation instructions.

Proposal Summary

Briefly describe your project

What are you planning to do, and how are you planning to do it? Provide a **brief** summary of the proposal that describes the local student needs to be addressed, student outcomes of the project, student learning opportunities and how these opportunities connect to the Alabama Gifted Standards and Student Outcomes, how you intend to spend the funds if awarded the grant, and how it will help you achieve your desired outcomes (you will include specifics in the Budget Section).

Is this a new project or an expansion of an existing project?

Have you received a Grants for Gifted and Talented Education in the past? If yes, was a final analysis and evaluation report submitted by the deadline stated in the application packet?

Project Description

A. Create a Needs Statement: Identify the student needs the proposed project will address.

- **Explain why this project is a critical need for your students.** Identify the student needs the proposed project will address.
- **Describe current conditions for student achievement/performance/opportunities in local school districts.** Use multiple sources of evidence to identify the current conditions.
- **Describe the desired student outcomes.** For example: What level of student achievement/performance is desirable? What learning opportunities should be available?
- **State the goals and objectives that address the needs for the program.**

B. Student Outcomes and Evidence of Success:

- State the target goal(s) (rate) of student success.
- Identify the specific area of student growth that will resolve the gaps (i.e., result in the desired conditions) in the Needs Statement.
- State the source of evidence that will be used to determine to what degree the student outcomes are met. Examples of student outcomes and evidence of success are:
 - Eighty-five percent of students participating in the project will improve their ability to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence by one level on the Project Writing Rubric.
 - Ninety percent of participating students will demonstrate strengthened communication skills by comparing a pre-administration and post-administration of the Leadership Assessment Inventory.

C. Student Learning Opportunities:

- What are the learning opportunities? How do they result in the student outcomes?
- How are they systematic and continuous (rather than a single event)?
- How do they connect to the Alabama Gifted Standards and StudentsOutcomes?
- How do they represent opportunities not already available in the school or system (creativity and/or innovation)?

D. School and Student Participants:

- Name the schools that will participate in the proposed project.
- How many students will participate in each learning opportunity in the proposed project?
- Describe the process and procedures used to identify these schools and student.

E. Project Implementation Plan: Complete the form included in the application package to provide details for each of the identified student outcomes from Section B and the associated learning opportunities from Section C. Include the estimated costs, a detailed timeline, and the person or position responsible for leadership and implementation for each aspect of the project.

F. Sustainability: Explain how the project will build school capacity to sustain services for students with gifts and talents.

G. Evaluation: Complete the form included in the application package to provide a detailed plan for assessing the degree to which each student outcome was met.

- List each student outcome in a separate row.
- List all evidence that will be used to determine the degree to which each student outcome was met (this is the evidence of success).
- Describe how the project will demonstrate opportunities and/or lasting benefits for students.
- Describe how the evidence will be analyzed (e.g., compare pre-/post-administration of Leadership Assessment Inventory; analyze teacher observations for patterns in student solutions to problems, triangulate responses from peer review, teacher review, and student self-review).
- Identify the person or position responsible for collecting and analyzing the evidence.

H. Budget: There are two steps to this section.

- First, provide a **detailed budget narrative** for the proposed project. Clearly indicate how project costs were calculated. Use state guidelines for expenditures.
- Second, complete the **Budget Summary (Section X)** of this application package). The proposed budget total should match the Total Amount Requested, in **Section II** of the first page.



**Alabama State Department of Education
GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENTS
EDUCATION PROGRAM GRANT**

INSTRUCTIONS: Complete and return with **original signature** by **4 p.m. on September 1, 2023**, to:

**ALABAMA STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
ATTN: ASHLEY STRICKLAND
P. O. BOX 302101
MONTGOMERY, AL 36130-2101**

OR

Send an electronic copy to:
ashley.strickland@alsde.edu

	Year FY-2024
I. GENERAL INFORMATION	

Applying Institution or Organization

Descriptive Project Title

Project Director	Title	Phone Area/No.
Email		Fax Area/No.
Street Address	City	Zip Code

II. GRANT REQUEST	
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Total Amount Requested	Date Submitted <i>Mo./Day/Yr.</i>
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III. ORGANIZATION INFORMATION	
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Name of Program Director (Type/Print)	Name of Chief School Financial Officer (CSFO) (Type/Print)
Name of LEA Superintendent (Type/Print)	

IV. CERTIFICATION BY AUTHORIZED OFFICIALS	
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THE APPLICANT CERTIFIES that to the best of his/her knowledge the information in this application is correct, that the filing of this application is duly authorized by the governing body of this organization, or institution, and that the applicant will comply with the attached statement of assurances.

Signatures of Authorized Officials:

	Date		Date
Program Director		State Superintendent of Education	

	Date
Chief School Financial Officer (CSFO)	

	Date
LEA Superintendent	

V. STATEMENT OF ASSURANCES

A grant shall be made for a single year and renewed for a single additional year contingent upon available funding and appropriate program evaluation. Grants shall be awarded upon consideration of all of the following criteria:

- a. Grants should be awarded to programs specifically targeted at gifted or talented children that meet the *Alabama Administrative Code* (AAC) criteria.
- b. The quality of the proposed curriculum and personnel is a primary concern.
- c. Preference is given to programs that are offered during the traditional school day or, alternatively, to programs that provide afterschool transportation.
- d. Preference is given to students from traditionally underserved populations.
- e. All programs awarded grants pursuant to this act must provide a means for assessing the impact of the program on participating students' academic growth.
- f. The appropriate local board of education must match local funds five percent (5%) of any grant funds awarded by the department under this act.

VI. PROPOSAL SUMMARY

In the space below, provide a **one paragraph** summary of your proposal.

VII. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

- a. Needs Statement – Identify the student needs the proposed project will address.
- First, describe current conditions for student achievement/performance/opportunities in local school districts. Identify the multiple sources of evidence evaluated to determine these conditions.
 - Describe the desired student outcomes.
 - State the goals and objectives that address the needs for the program.

b. Student Outcomes and Evidence of Success—Complete Section VIII. and Section IX. Attachments

- State the target goal(s) (rate) of student success. (List each on a separate row under Student Outcomes in **Section VIII.**)
 - Clearly identify the evidence that will be used to measure student outcomes. (This will be listed in **Section IX.**)
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- c. **Student Learning Opportunities** – Describe in detail the learning opportunities in which students will engage to achieve the outcomes listed in **Section VII. b.**
- What are the learning opportunities? How do they result in student outcomes?
 - How are they systematic and continuous (rather than a single event)?
 - How do they connect to the Alabama Gifted Standards and Student Outcomes?
 - How do they represent opportunities not available in the regular classroom (creativity and/or innovation)?

d. **School and Student Participants**

- Name the schools that will participate in the proposed project.
 - Provide the number of students that will participate in each learning opportunity in the proposed project.
 - Describe the process and procedures used to identify these schools and students. List the identification tools and measures, as well as the specific criteria used to select participants.
 - Describe how the process, procedures, tools/measures, and criteria are culturally and linguistically responsive to identify a diverse range of students. **Be specific.**
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- e. **Project Implementation Plan** – Using the form provided (**Section VIII of this application package**), supply details for each of the identified student outcomes from **Section VII. b.** and the associated learning opportunities from **Section VII. b.** Include the estimated costs, a **detailed** timeline, and the person or position responsible for leadership and implementation for each aspect of the project.

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- f. **Sustainability** – Explain how the project will build school capacity to sustain services for students with gifts and talents.
- **Limit response to one paragraph.**

g. Evaluation – Provide a detailed plan (**Section IX** of the application package) for assessing the degree to which each student outcome was met.

- List each student outcome from **Section VII. b.** in a separate row.
- List the evidence that will be used to determine the degree to which each goal was met (identified in **Section VII. b.**).
- Describe how the evidence will be analyzed (e.g., compare pre/post administration of leadership inventory, analyze teacher observation notes for patters in student solutions to problems; triangulate information from peer review, teacher review, and student self-review).
- Identify the person responsible for collecting/analyzing the evidence.
- **In the space below**, describe how the project will demonstrate opportunities and/or lasting benefits for students.

h. Budget – There are two steps to this section.

- First, provide a **detailed budget narrative** for the proposed project in this section of the application. Clearly indicate how project costs were calculated. Use state guidelines for expenditures.
 - Second, complete the **Budget Summary (Section X)** of this application package). The proposed budget total should match the *Total Amount Requested*, in **Section II** of the first page.
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VIII. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Project Implementation Plan: On this form, list each student outcome from the associated learning opportunities from Section VII. b. Provide the estimated costs, a detailed timeline, and the person or position responsible for leadership and implementation for each aspect of the project.

Student Outcome	Learning Opportunity	Estimated Costs	Timeline	Person/ Position Responsible

IX. EVALUATION

Evaluation: Provide a detailed plan for assessing the degree to which each student outcome was met. List each student outcome from **Section VII. b.** in a separate row. List all evidence that will be used to determine the degree to which each student outcome was met (identified in **Section VII. b.**). Describe how the evidence will be analyzed (e.g., compare pre/post administration of leadership inventory; analyze teacher observation notes for patterns in student solutions to problems; triangulate information from peer review, teacher review, and student self-review). Identify the person or position responsible for collecting and analyzing the evidence.

Student Outcome <i>From Section VII. b.</i>	Evidence That Will be Used to Measure Student Outcome <i>From Section VII. b.</i>	Methods That Will be Used to Analyze the Evidence	Person/Position Responsible for Collecting and Analyzing the Evidence

**X. GIFTED EDUCATION PROGRAM GRANT
 PROPOSED BUDGET
 FY 2024**

Revenue Code = 1286; Program Code = 2800; Fund Source = 1286

Function Code	Object Code	Description	Budget (Round to whole dollars.)
1100	014	Salaries – Gifted Teacher Benefits: (As applicable)	\$ _____
1100	230	Social Security (6.2%)	_____
1100	240	Medicare (1.45%)	_____
1100	220	Retirement (12.59% Tier I, 11.57% Tier II)	_____
1100	250	Unemployment Compensation (LEA’s individual rate)	_____
1100	382	In-State Travel	_____
1100	311	Student Education Services	_____
2215	312	Purchased Services - Staff Educational Services	_____
2215	319	Purchased Services - Other Professional Educational Services	_____
1100	411	Student Classroom Supplies	_____
1100	414	Instructional Software	_____
1100	491	Instructional Equipment (Less than \$5,000 per unit)	_____
1100	495	Computer Hardware (Less than \$5,000 per unit)	_____
1100	589	Other Equipment (Capital Outlay)	_____
_____	623	Registration Fees	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	TOTAL	\$ _____

MATCH INFORMATION

Use Special Use Code 0038 – Gifted Student Competitive Grant Match