Innovation Powered by Technology
Model School Grant Opportunity

Model School
At a glance...

Focus: Support the redesign of a school that uses technology as the catalyst for transformation. Work will involve revising and creating policy at the local level to support digital learning and innovative practices. The model school will serve as a "proof point" site for public education across RI.

Project Funds: $470,000 - E2T2 / Foundations

Award: Funds to support professional development, policy work, 1:1 technology equipment and infrastructure in a model school.

Professional Development: Intensive Preliminary Work Ongoing embedded PD

Eligible Entities: Open to all LEAs demonstrating a strong commitment and need.

Deadline: March 23, 2012

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As part of our commitment to exploring opportunities for innovation through virtual learning and other uses of technology, RIDE is pleased to announce a $470,000 grant to support the redesign of a school that will use technology as the catalyst for transformation. Through a competitive-bid process based in part on need, we will award the grant to support a school that demonstrates a strong commitment to innovation powered by technology. All Local Education Agencies (LEAs) are eligible to apply for the grant, which the winning LEA can use to transform a school at any level (elementary, middle, or high school).

The LEAs that apply would propose a school site at which they will create a technology-rich learning environment that fundamentally rethinks and restructures teaching and learning through such initiatives as digital curriculum, gaming, 1:1 computing, virtual-learning environments, expanded learning opportunities, and flexible scheduling. This school would share its lessons learned across schools in the district and it would become a pilot program to help us launch a statewide initiative in innovations powered by technology.

Funding from a separate grant will support documenting and capturing the process a school community will go through as they work to implement redesign strategies and policies. The process will include, but is not limited to defining the program structure, collaborating with stakeholders, evaluating current conditions and infrastructure, eliminating policy barriers, developing supportive policies, launching the project, evaluating, adjusting, reflecting and sharing with others. Through the process the school community will develop a rich understanding of blended learning models and instructional strategies; curriculum and content options; model lessons and best practice; as well as data driven feedback loops that inform decision making and guide statewide implementation.

RIDE will release a Request For Proposal (RFP) on behalf of the selected school as well as other entities interested in increasing student access to technology. The RFP will solicit an "all-inclusive" vendor solution that will include devices with internet access, wireless infrastructure, technical support and maintenance, as well as professional development.

Preferred applicants will be those LEAs that have demonstrated a strong commitment to ensuring the necessary conditions to support innovation in the model school.

RI Virtual Learning