# Golden State Pathways Program Consortium Grant Request for Applications

California Department of Education seal.



**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* sections 53020 – 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.

Three different funding opportunities are available to applicants through the GSPP:

1. Consortium grants are for Lead Applicants (any LEA with a County/District/School identification code) 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.
2. Planning Grants are for LEAs that want to develop and establish a career focus program or pathway. Eligibility for a GSPP Planning Grant requires submitting a separate Planning and Implementation Grant application.
3. 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. Eligibility for a GSPP Implementation Grant requires submitting a separate Planning and Implementation Grant application.

Grant funding for a consortium will be calculated as a single applicant inclusive of members as indicated in Appendix K: GSPP Consortium Participating Agencies Form. Each member of the consortium must adhere to the GSPP expected outcomes.

## 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 be in partnership for the consortium grants.

LEAs are defined as a school district, charter school, county office of education (COE), or regional occupational center or program operated by a joint powers authority or county office of education. To be eligible for participation in a GSPP Consortium, LEAs must provide a CDE-assigned County/District/School (CDS) identification code and must be classified as an active LEA by the CDE. When establishing GSPP Consortiums, LEAs are encouraged to collaborate with institutions of higher education to develop, or expand the availability of, innovative college and career pathways. Community college districts may partner with local educational agencies to submit applications to receive funding under this program to support the offering of a Golden State Pathways Program.

LEAs choosing to form a consortium are required to submit a single application for the consortium. Consortium applicants must designate a single school district, charter school, or County Office of Education as the lead agency in Appendix D: GSPP Consortium Application Signature Form. The lead agency must be a grant eligible LEA and a member of the applying consortium.

The lead LEA must submit Letters of Commitment (LOC) or Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) from all participating LEAs in the consortium. Individual schools are not eligible to apply for the consortium grant.

To be eligible to receive a grant award, all members of the consortium shall commit to providing participating pupils with the expected outcomes identified in Appendix E: GSPP Consortium Grant Application Narrative.

Lead Applicants who submit a consortium application are responsible for programmatic and fiscal oversight of the consortium, including data management and reporting.

## Funding

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

Funding Amount: Up to $500,000 per consortium member with a maximum of $4 million per consortium.

According to *EC* 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.

Failure of an individual consortium member to meet the requirements of the grant application will constitute a failure of all members of the consortium to meet the application’s requirements and may result in the rejection of the application, a delay in notification of funding, or a cancellation of grant allocations. The lead agency will be responsible for all grant program fiscal and program reporting for the consortium.

Indirect costs may be claimed by the consortium lead only and are limited to that lead agency’s CDE-approved Indirect Cost Rate (ICR) as found on the CDE ICR web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/fg/ac/ic/>.

## 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 California *Education Code* (*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** | **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 |

### Golden State Pathways Program – Allowable Costs

| **Programs** | **Allowable Status** |
| --- | --- |
| CTSO 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](mailto:gspp@cde.ca.gov).

## Grant Application

The GSPP framework provides 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 Consortium Grant Application Narrative, Lead Applicants will compile narrative responses from each consortium member and provide a single detailed work plan and timeline outlining proposed activities of consortium members.

In addition, Lead Applicants are required to compile budgets from all consortium members as well as develop and submit a detailed consortium budget and budget narrative as outlined in Appendix F: GSPP Consortium Grant Budget and Budget Narrative.

Consortium Budget narratives should identify projected costs, directly link to expected outcomes, and provide details of all proposed expenditures.

Lead Applicants must submit compiled MOUs and/or LOCs, compiled narrative responses, and compiled budgets from each consortium member as single PDF attachments.

Consortium applications will be assessed based on the Lead Applicant’s responses to questions in Appendix E: GSPP Consortium Grant Application Narrative, Appendix F: GSPP Consortium Grant Budget and Budget Narrative.

While all members must submit individual narrative responses and budgets, only the Lead Applicant’s responses will be scored.

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

### Instructions for Submitting the GSPP Consortium Grant Application

All Lead 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 [http://www.cde.ca.gov/fg/fo/af/.](http://www.cde.ca.gov/fg/fo/af/) The costs of preparing and delivering an application are the sole responsibility of the applicant.

Email a digital copy of a signed application to [GSPP@cde.ca.gov](mailto:GSPP@cde.ca.gov)on or before   
**March 19, 2024**. A complete application consists of the following components. No more than eight attachments will be accepted. Each attachment must be clearly named according to specifications below:

1. GSPP Consortium Application Signature Form (Appendix D) **saved as a single PDF file.**
2. GSPP Consortium Grant Application Narrative (Appendix E)
3. Resume and/or job descriptions of current or future staff **saved as a single PDF file.**
4. GSPP Consortium Grant Budget & Budget Narrative (Appendix F)
5. GSPP Consortium Participating Agencies (Appendix K)
6. Partner Agreements - MOUs or LOCs from all participating Consortium members **saved as a single PDF file**.
7. Compiled Application Narratives and Budgets (appendices E and F) completed by each consortium member and **saved as a single PDF file**.
8. GSPP Local Education Agency Data Report (Appendix C)

### **Reading and Scoring**

Each consortium application will be reviewed for the required elements that align and support the full implementation of the proposed plan. Reviewers will examine Lead Applicant’s responses with respect to each of the GSPP Grant plan elements. Lead Applicant responses should reflect the needs of the consortium members.

Each section of the core application narrative will be evaluated and assigned a score using Appendix G: GSPP Consortium Grant Scoring Rubric, which summarizes the required components of the GSPP grant work plan including narrative responses and aligned budget.

### 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 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](mailto:GSPP@cde.ca.gov,%20addressed%20), 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 signed letter 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: GSPP Budget Categories and Descriptions

Appendix B: GSPP Program Requirements and Legislation

Appendix C: GSPP Local Education Agency Data Report

Appendix D: GSPP Consortium Application Signature Form

[Appendix E: GSPP Consortium Grant](#_bookmark19) Application Narrative

Appendix F: GSPP Consortium Grant Budget & Budget Narrative

Appendix G: GSPP Consortium Grant Scoring Rubric

[Appendix H:](#_bookmark22) GSPP Consortium Grant Application Checklist

Appendix I: GSPP Framework

Appendix J: GSPP Expenditure Guidelines

Appendix K: GSPP Consortium Participating Agencies

Posted by the California Department of Education – January 2024

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