California Department of Education

Executive Office

SBE-002 (REV. 11/2017)

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# **MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** June 19, 2023

**TO:** MEMBERS, State Board of Education

**FROM:** TONY THURMOND, State Superintendent of Public Instruction

**SUBJECT:** Update on the California Golden State Pathways Program

## Summary of Key Issues

The purpose of this communication is to update the Board on the Golden State Pathways Program (GSPP).

The key areas for this Memo will include:

* Status of GSPP Framework.
* Status of Lead Technical Assistance Center (TAC) and the Regional TACs request for applications (RFAs) release, scoring and contract timeline.
* Proposed timeline for 2023-24 GSPP implementation grant RFAs Cohort 1 and the consortium grant RFAs Cohort 1.

## Background

### 2022–23 Golden State Pathways Program (GSPP)

In 2022, the California Legislature passed the California Golden State Pathways Program Grant Act (California *Education Code* 53020–53025) (<https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displayText.xhtml?lawCode=EDC&division=4.&title=2.&part=28.&chapter=16.1.&article=>) and allocated $500,000,000 to the GSPP. The purpose of the GSPP is to provide local educational agencies (LEAs) with the resources to promote college and career pathways in high-wage, high-skill, high-growth areas, including technology, health care, education, and climate-related fields that, among other things, allow pupils to advance seamlessly from high school to college and career and provide the workforce needed for economic growth.

The California GSPP Grant Act established two different competitive grant opportunities for local educational agencies, as well as competitive grants for regional Technical Assistance Centers (TACs). Awards are made by the Superintendent, in consultation with the Executive Director of the State Board of Education.

* **Technical Assistance Centers**

Up to 5 percent, or $25,000,000, of the GSPP funds to contract with up to ten LEAs to provide technical assistance to applicants and grant recipients that is aligned to TA provided for other college and career readiness initiatives. One of the technical assistance centers (TACs) with demonstrated expertise in the design and implementation of college and career pathways will serve as the Lead TAC. The Lead TAC, working with CDE, is responsible for providing leadership and direction to the other TACs. The Regional TACS will provide TA to GSPP grantees in their respective regions.

* **Consortium Development and Planning Grants**

Consortium development and planning grants (up to 10 percent, or $50,000,000 of the GSPP funds) to support collaborative planning between a grant recipient and their program partners in the development of high-quality college and career pathways opportunities that are consistent with the requirements of GSPP.

* **Implementation Grants**

Implementation grants (up to 85 percent, or $425,000,000 of GSPP funds) to support a grant recipient’s ability to offer participating pupils with high-quality college and career pathways opportunities.

## 2022–23 GSPP Status Report

### Golden State Pathways Framework

Per SBE request, in February and March 2023, CDE staff in collaboration with Jobs for the Future staff developed a pathways framework (Attachment 1) that can be applied to all pathway development and expansion. The pathways framework has five key components that provide guidance to LEAs as they work on the expansion of their current pathways or the development of their new pathways.

The components include:

1. Integrated Program of Study
2. Work-based Learning
3. Integrated Student Supports
4. Regional Ecosystem
5. Coherence & Sustainability

LEAs will utilize this framework as guidance to develop sustainable new pathways or expand current pathways. The GSPP Framework is based on several key components that will deliver the guidance necessary to develop or expand sustainable academic and career-based pathways. Pathways are designed using regional labor market information to identify growing industries and occupations, as well as the skills and credentials needed for a career in targeted sectors, and reverse mapped from industry and postsecondary education to K–12 education to ensure that students develop the skills and competencies they need to succeed in careers. The framework is designed to provide seamless guidance that will assist them with exploration and selection within an enhanced system directing them to a plan that will accelerate their academic (secondary and postsecondary) and career focus.

The CDE shared the GSPP Framework with pathway development interest holders across the State for feedback on the framework.

Interest holder feedback was requested from the following organizations:

* California Teachers Association Representatives (3)
* CTE Director at San Joaquin COE
* Assistant Superintendent at San Bernardino COE
* Curriculum Coordinator San Diego COE
* President of Linked Learning Alliance
* CTE Director Coachella Valley USD
* CTE Director Corona Norco USD
* Executive Director Riverside COE

### Lead Technical Assistance Center and Regional Technical Assistance Center RFAs

The Lead TAC will serve as the lead technical assistance grantee of the GSPP technical assistance system. The Lead TAC, working with the CDE, is responsible for providing leadership and direction to the Regional TACs. The Regional TACs are responsible for providing technical assistance to GSPP grantees in their respective regions.

Per statute, up to 10 LEAs will provide technical assistance to GSPP applicants and grant recipients that is aligned to technical assistance provided for other college and career readiness initiatives. The regional TACs will commit to the following:

* Assisting local educational agencies in the continuous improvement of their Golden State Pathways Programs.
* Leveraging evidence-based program frameworks, such as linked learning framework and quality standards, to aid grantees.
* Providing prospective applicants and grantees with feedback regarding the development of their planned application, implementation, and continuous improvement of their Golden State Pathways Program and other career technical education programs, courses, and pathways that have been integrated with, or that have been aligned with, a local educational agency’s Golden State Pathways Program.
* Creating a community of practice network that enables grantees to share best practices with other grantees and other interested local educational agencies.
* Assisting grant recipients with the collection and reporting of required data pursuant to this chapter.

The total budget for the TACs contracts is up to $25,000,000.

## Proposed Technical Assistance Center Regions

| **Region** | **Contract Amount** | **Counties** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | TBD | Butte, Del Norte, Glenn, Humboldt, Lake, Lassen, Mendocino, Modoc, Plumas, Shasta, Siskiyou, Tehama, Trinity |
| 2 | TBD | Alpine, Colusa, El Dorado, Nevada, Mariposa, Placer, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Sierra, Solano, Sutter, Yolo, Yuba |
| 3 | TBD | Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Mendocino, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Sonoma |
| 4 | TBD | Amador, Calaveras, Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Stanislaus, Tulare, Tuolumne |
| 5 | TBD | Monterey, San Benito, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz, Ventura |
| 6 | TBD | Los Angeles |
| 7 | TBD | Imperial, Orange, San Diego |
| 8 | TBD | Inyo, Mono, Riverside, San Bernardino |

CDE identified these regions after reviewing data that identified geographic regions from existing related initiatives, such as the Career Technical Education Incentive Grant Program. These regions may be reconfigured by the CDE with consideration of the following factors:

* Geographic proximity
* Alignment with complimentary state initiatives
* Concentration of existing planning and implementation grants
* Concentration of potentially qualifying and prioritized LEAs and School Sites

An RFA for the LTAC and RTAC contracts will be released in July 2023. The final award amount for each GSPP Regional TAC contract will be determined by the CDE based on the following factors, which include, but are not limited to:

* Number of Regional TACs awarded,
* Number of qualified and prioritized schools within the region assigned, and
* Number of grants awarded within the region.

Applications are due in August 2023.

The tentative contract period is September 1, 2023, through June 30, 2028 (a minimum of $2,000,000 for RTACs and $4,000,000 for the LTAC).

## 2022-23 GSPP Timeline

A round of applications for both consortium development/planning and implementation grants will occur early in the 2023–24 school year. Outreach to potential applicants will be coordinated by CDE.

### Planning Grants and Implementation Grants

The following is the proposed timeline for both planning grant and implementation grant applications.

| **Date** | **Activity** |
| --- | --- |
| November 2023 | RFA Release Date |
| December 2023 | Applications must be received at the CDE, by 11:59 p.m. Pacific Time |
| January 2024 | Scoring of Applications |
| January 2024 | Proposed grantees Announced |
| Two weeks after the Announcement | Appeals must be received at the CDE |
| February 2024 | GAN Letters Released |
| March 2024 | Disbursement of Funds |
| June 30, 2028 | All Funds Must be Expended |

## Attachment(s)

* **Attachment 1:** California Pathways Framework (21 pages)
* **Attachment 2:** Golden State Pathways Program Act, California *Education Code*, sections 53020–53025 (8 pages).