

Education Innovation Fund



There is no doubt that schooling in Colorado will look different next year. This shifting reality poses several challenges to the education landscape.

Physical distancing will require changes in instructional delivery (virtual offerings, small group sizes, schedule and calendar shifts) both in and out of school

How might educators, learning providers, schools, nonprofits, school networks, and districts adapt to support learning in this new environment?

Many families may choose not to send their children to in-person schooling in the fall, shifting the learning environment to the home and community

How can we empower families and community members to effectively support student learning?

Uncertainty about the future will shape decision-making for all stakeholders, including most profoundly students themselves

How can we ensure continuity of learning in light of this environment? How can we support graduates to navigate a changing future?

COVID-19 and its effects have a disproportionate impact on students with fewer resources

How can we ensure all students are supported, especially those most vulnerable?

Boundaries between networks of support (families, out of school partners, schools, districts) have become less distinct, and stakeholders ever more interdependent

How can we reinvent systems and structures to flexibly respond to students needs? How might we establish new partnerships and networks and sustain these efforts into the future?

The Fund will support projects across a wide spectrum of stakeholders that seek to pilot and prototype innovative solutions to meet students' needs.

The Fund has designated \$325,000 for small, medium, and large size grants which will focus on emergent strategies and provide support via:

- A) “Learning dollars” for families facing economic hardship to expand access to summer learning opportunities. [Visit RESCHOOL Colorado’s website to apply.](#)
- B) Funding for eligible applicants for locally-driven efforts to design and test new models of learning.
- C) Funding to districts and others to develop strategies that address the disruption of school and district operations due to COVID-19 for the summer and 2020-21 school year.



The Fund will work with implementation partners on this opportunity, including:



RESCHOOL is a non-profit organization that creates the conditions for more expansive learning. RESCHOOL leverages and reorganizes existing assets and resources more purposefully around the needs of kids. RESCHOOL works directly with learners, families; and communities, supports research to measure impact and inform next steps; and launches new concepts to address gaps in the ecosystem.

RESCHOOL will support the distribution of “learning dollars” to families.



Empower Schools is a national nonprofit organization that works to catalyze innovation and improve outcomes for students. Empower brings deep expertise and strong support skills to help school, system, and community leaders design and launch networks of district schools. Empower adds capacity and ensures that new solutions consider issues like scale and sustainability.

Empower Schools will support work related to district innovation, including working with applicants to identify solutions that have the potential to reinvent school and district systems.



Project examples

- A) An educator requests \$1,500 to adapt a summer learning program to a virtual context for 100 students
- B) A group of learning providers requests \$4,000 to develop a collaborative summer program for 400 middle schoolers
- C) A school network requests \$6,000 to pilot new summer programming for 5000 students that could inform ongoing operations in the fall
- D) A group of families, out-of-school learning providers, and/or a district request \$15,000 to pilot a program to allow families to direct a portion of per pupil revenue to meet students' needs
- E) A group of school districts requests \$30,000 to develop a formalized strategy to share and flex resources across schools, districts, higher ed and/or industry partners to meet students needs in SY 2020-21



Selection process and timeline

Families should visit [RESCHOOL Colorado's website](#) to apply for “learning dollars”.

All other applicants are asked to submit Letters of Interest which will be reviewed and funds distributed on a rolling basis from now through the beginning of the 2020-21 school year. Letters of Interest will be reviewed twice monthly. Submissions may be up to two pages in length, or comparably brief if submitted in another format (e.g., PPT, video, etc).

