



Schoolwide Innovation Grants Summary October 31, 2025 Draft

Champions For Learning (CFL) and Collier County Public Schools (CCPS) are collaboratively developing a proposal for a Schoolwide Innovation Grants Program that would support the implementation, refinement, and scaling of innovative practices that strengthen outcomes for students and educators.

Every day, principals and teachers see promising ideas in their schools and classrooms that align with the district's broader goals for student success. Schools often lack the resources to expand these practices or test them in a structured way. This lack of support undercuts student excellence, as well as teacher efficacy and job satisfaction, contributing to teacher attrition. By enabling educators to refine promising practices within a shared district framework, the Schoolwide Innovation Grants Program would serve students by improving instruction while boosting teachers' sense of agency and professional joy. This would fuel both student achievement and teacher retention.

While CCPS identifies and pursues promising instructional practices, limited funds make it difficult to test and refine these ideas across multiple settings. The Schoolwide Innovation Grants Program would provide the seed funding needed to connect classroom innovation with district priorities and accelerate the adoption of practices that have strong potential for wider impact.

The program would offer donors the opportunity to support positive outcomes that extend beyond individual classrooms. Each grant would support implementation of an innovative practice across a grade level, content area, or competency domain, allowing CCPS to assess the practice's effectiveness in different contexts i.e. schools with varying demographics. The program would supplement, not replace, the existing classroom grants program. Each grant would be significant, generally ranging from \$50,000 to \$100,000 or more per year, and may span multiple years to allow sufficient time for refinement and meaningful evaluation.

CCPS and CFL would collaboratively identify one or more areas of need or specific innovative practices as the focus of each grant cycle. Selection criteria would include alignment with district goals, potential district interest in scaling the practice using district funds, and the potential to inspire philanthropic investment. District-level team members would support implementation of each innovation, ensuring that projects are coordinated with broader instructional initiatives.

Based on the impact of funded projects, CCPS could consider expanding implementation of effective practices to additional schools. Evaluation and decisions about scaling would be informed by classroom results, district data, alignment with CCPS strategic goals, and feedback from participating teachers about what worked, what did not, and why.

If the Board of Directors of Champions For Learning approves the concept in January 2026, the first application and award cycle could occur in spring 2026, with implementation beginning in the 2026–2027 school year. An informational meeting would be held for school-based teams interested in applying, with each school represented by a teacher leader and an administrator. Each proposal would be developed jointly by principals and teacher-leaders to ensure that classroom perspectives and instructional experience inform project design. The program would strengthen collaboration among teachers, school leaders, and district staff by creating structured opportunities to test and refine innovative practices that reflect both teacher insight and district priorities.

By aligning teacher-driven innovation with district-identified priorities, the Schoolwide Innovation Grants Program would empower educators and accelerate progress toward Collier County Public Schools' strategic goals.