

**Overview**

New School Choice Pandemic Response Funds (NSC Funds) will be available to Type 1, 2, 3, 3b, 4, and 5 charter schools in the first three years of operation with the purpose of providing evidenced-based interventions to meet the social, emotional, and academic needs of students. Awards will utilize the Louisiana Department of Education's ESSER funding allocated to the SEA. The maximum allocation will be up to \$350,000 to be distributed in accordance with the timeline below, upon a successful application. The charter school must comply with all funding requirements related to ESSER funds, including any additional ESSER funding through their authorizer, such as the 20% reservation to provide evidenced-based interventions.

**Eligibility**

Charter schools that have been approved to open by the local authorizer or the Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education are eligible to apply. Schools in the planning year prior to the opening of the school are eligible to apply for planning and implementation funding and schools in their first semester of operation are eligible to apply for implementation funding. Applications must be received by the deadline given by the LDE. See below for application details.

**Awards**

Funds will be released in two funding streams, one for the planning year prior to opening, and one for the implementation phase of operation during the first two years after the school has opened. Allowable use of funds for each funding stream are included in the tables below. The LDE will release the application timelines on a bi-annual basis. Charter schools will be allocated up to \$150,000 for the planning year phase and up to \$200,000 for the implementation phase. All funds must be obligated by September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023 and liquidated by October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023. The LDE will determine award amounts based on the model selected, demonstrated need, and availability of funds. LDE will allocate grants directly to the school for Type 2 and 5 charter schools, and to the authorizer/LEA for Type 1, 3, and 4. Awards on behalf of Type 1 and Type 3 charter schools will be allocated to each charter school's LEA on the condition, required by federal guidelines, that LEAs may not deduct administrative fees unless as part of an arrangement for administrative services to which the charter school and LEA have mutually agreed.

*Example:* Charter School A is approved in January 2022 by the local district to open in the fall of 2023. The school applies for New School Choice Pandemic Response Funding in March of 2022 and is awarded funding in June 2022. If awarded, the school will be allocated \$150,000 for expense reimbursements through June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023. An additional up to \$200,000 will be available for the implementation phase from July 1, 2022, through September 30, 2023. Total award amounts will vary by application and year.

| <b>Pathway</b>   | <b>Planning Year</b> | <b>First Year of Operation</b> | <b>Second Year of Operation</b><br>(must be obligated by September 30, 2023) | <b>Maximum Award</b> |
|--|----------------------|--------------------------------|--|----------------------|
| Planning and Implementation (applying prior to opening)  | Up to \$150,000      | Up to \$200,000                |  | Up to \$350,000      |
| Implementation (applying in first semester of operation) |                      | Up to \$200,000                |  | Up to \$200,000      |

| <b>Planning Phase</b>   |  |   |   |                             |
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| <b>NSC Funding Area</b> | <b>Detailed Use of Funds</b>   | <b>Department of Education Allowability</b>   | <b>LDE Priorities Aligned to Allocation</b>   | <b>Suggested Allocation</b> |
| School leader planning  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Stipend for a school leader in the planning phase;</li> <li>● School leader to assist in engagement with families;</li> <li>● School leader will establish systems for meeting the unique needs of students with disabilities and support for student well-being;</li> <li>● School leader will hire subject matter experts such as: master teachers, instructional coaches,</li> </ul> | Activities to address the unique needs of low-income children or students, children with disabilities, English learners, racial and ethnic minorities, students experiencing homelessness, and foster care youth, including how outreach and service delivery will meet the needs of each population. | <p>Provide the highest quality teaching and learning environment.</p> <p>Develop and retain a diverse, highly effective educator workforce.</p> | \$80,000                    |

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|  | <p>literacy coaches to support individual schools or school cohorts</p>  |  |   |          |
| School design                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expenses related to school design planning and development such as fellowships, incubation programs, or contractors to develop strategic plans and systems</li> </ul>   | <p>Providing principals and other school leaders with the resources necessary to address the needs of their individual schools.</p> <p>Developing and implementing procedures and systems to improve the preparedness and response efforts of local educational agencies.</p>  | <p>Provide the highest quality teaching and learning environment.</p>   | \$25,000 |
| High-quality curriculum and assessment materials | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Purchase of high-quality curriculum (considered Tier 1 in the Louisiana Department of Education <a href="#">Instructional Materials Review</a>) for ELA, Math, Science;</li> <li>Purchase of high-quality assessment materials</li> </ul> | <p>Activities to address the unique needs of low-income students, children with disabilities, English learners, racial and ethnic minorities.</p> <p>Addressing learning loss among students, including low-income students, children with disabilities, English learners, racial and ethnic minorities, students experiencing homelessness, and children and youth in foster care, of the local educational agency, including: a. Administering and using high-quality assessments that are valid and reliable, to accurately</p> | <p>Ensure every student is on track to a professional career, college degree, or service.</p> <p>Remove barriers and create equitable, inclusive learning experiences for all children.</p> <p>Provide the highest quality teaching and learning environment.</p> <p>Develop and retain a diverse, highly effective educator workforce.</p> | \$70,000 |

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|  |  | <p>assess academic progress and assist educators in meeting students' academic needs, including differentiating instruction.</p>   |  |                 |
| <p>Professional development for teachers and leaders</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● High-quality curriculum professional development for teachers and leaders;</li> <li>● Professional development aligned to high-quality curriculum listed in the <a href="#">Louisiana Academic Content PD Vendor Guide</a></li> </ul> | <p>Addressing learning loss among students, including low-income students, children with disabilities, English learners, racial and ethnic minorities, students experiencing homelessness, and children and youth in foster care, of the local educational agency, including: a. Administering and using high-quality assessments that are valid and reliable, to accurately assess academic progress and assist educators in meeting students' academic needs, including differentiating instruction.</p> | <p>Provide the highest quality teaching and learning environment.</p> <p>Develop and retain a diverse, highly effective educator workforce.</p>  | <p>\$30,000</p> |
| <p>SEL curriculum and materials</p>                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Purchase of curriculum and materials related to social and emotional learning;</li> <li>● Professional development;</li> <li>● Curriculum implementation support</li> </ul>   | <p>Providing mental health services and supports.</p>  | <p>Ensure every student is on track to a professional career, college degree, or service.</p> <p>Remove barriers and create equitable, inclusive learning experiences for all children.</p> <p>Provide the highest</p> | <p>\$10,000</p> |

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|                     |  |   | <p>quality teaching and learning environment.</p> <p>Develop and retain a diverse, highly effective educator workforce.</p>               |          |
| Technology supplies | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Purchase of technology supplies for student use to include: computers, educational software, internet connectivity for students off-campus</li> </ul> | <p>Purchasing educational technology (including hardware, software, and connectivity) for students who are served by the LEA that aids in regular and substantive educational interaction between students and their classroom instructors, including low-income students and children with disabilities, which may include assistive technology or adaptive equipment.</p> | <p>Provide the highest quality teaching and learning environment.</p>   | \$40,000 |
| Technology Supplies | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Purchase of a Learning Management System</li> </ul>   | <p>Purchasing educational technology (including hardware, software, and connectivity) for students who are served by the LEA that aids in regular and substantive educational interaction between students and their classroom instructors, including low-income students and children with disabilities, which may</p>   | <p>Cultivate high-impact systems, structures, and partnerships.</p> <p>Provide the highest quality teaching and learning environment.</p> | \$10,000 |

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|                     |   | include assistive technology or adaptive equipment.  |   |          |
| Technology Supplies | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Purchase of an Enrollment Management System</li> </ul> | Purchasing educational technology (including hardware, software, and connectivity) for students who are served by the LEA that aids in regular and substantive educational interaction between students and their classroom instructors, including low-income students and children with disabilities, which may include assistive technology or adaptive equipment. | <p>Cultivate high-impact systems, structures, and partnerships.</p> <p>Provide the highest quality teaching and learning environment.</p> | \$10,000 |

| Planning and/ or Implementation Phase    |   |  |  |                      |
|--|---|--|--|----------------------|
| NSC Funding Area                         | Detailed Use of Funds   | Department of Education Allowability   | LDE Priorities Aligned to Allocation   | Suggested Allocation |
| Parent involvement/<br>Family engagement | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stipend for community outreach/student engagement/parent liaison</li> </ul>  | Providing information and assistance to parents and families on how they can effectively support students, including in a distance learning environment.     | <p>Remove barriers and create equitable, inclusive learning experiences for all children.</p> <p>Cultivate high-impact systems, structures, and partnerships</p> | \$10,000             |
| Parent involvement/<br>Family engagement | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Purchase of materials used for the purposes of family engagement</li> </ul>  | Providing information and assistance to parents and families on how they can effectively support students, including in a distance learning environment.     | <p>Remove barriers and create equitable, inclusive learning experiences for all children.</p> <p>Cultivate high-impact systems, structures, and partnerships</p> | \$5,000              |
| Charter board professional development   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Purchase of materials and fees related to board development and training</li> </ul>                                  | Providing principals and other school leaders with resources necessary to address the needs of their individual schools.                                     | Cultivate high-impact systems, structures and partnerships   | \$3,000              |
| Diverse Learners Support                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contracted services or stipends for staff to collaborate on implementing the high-quality curriculum with</li> </ul> | Addressing learning loss among students, including low-income students, children with disabilities, English learners, racial and ethnic minorities, students | <p>Ensure every student is on track to a professional career, college degree, or service.</p> <p>Remove barriers</p>   | \$10,000             |

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|  | <p>fidelity for diverse learners</p>  | <p>experiencing homelessness, and children and youth in foster care, of the local educational agency.</p>  | <p>and create equitable, inclusive learning experiences for all children.</p> <p>Provide the highest quality teaching and learning environment.</p>   |                |
| <p>Professional development for teachers and leaders</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participation in the Achieve! School Improvement Best Practices institute, focusing on serving diverse learners</li> </ul> | <p>Addressing learning loss among students, including low-income students, children with disabilities, English learners, racial and ethnic minorities, students experiencing homelessness, and children and youth in foster care, of the local educational agency.</p> | <p>Ensure every student is on track to a professional career, college degree, or service.</p> <p>Remove barriers and create equitable, inclusive learning experiences for all children.</p> <p>Provide the highest quality teaching and learning environment.</p> | <p>\$5,000</p> |



| Implementation Phase |  |  |   |                      |
|----------------------|--|--|---|----------------------|
| NSC Funding Area     | Detailed Use of Funds  | Department of Education Allowability           | LDE Priorities Aligned to Allocation  | Suggested Allocation |
| Social Worker        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Social Worker to implement SEL curriculum to provide support and counseling for student well-being</li> </ul> | Providing mental health services and supports. | <p>Ensure every student is on track to a professional career, college degree, or service.</p> <p>Remove barriers and create equitable, inclusive learning experiences for all children.</p> <p>Provide the highest quality teaching and learning environment.</p> <p>Develop and retain a diverse, highly effective educator workforce.</p> | \$52,000             |

**Application**

Approved charter schools must apply for the funding by March 15th, 2023. Applications will include a budget detailing the use of funds with alignment to [LDE Believe To Achieve Educational Priorities](#) and a three-year operating budget. Applications will be reviewed for allowability and alignment with the LDE's priorities. Charter schools will not receive more than one allocation of New School Choice Pandemic Response Funding.

The following must be received by the LDE by the deadline given (additional details follow):

- 1) Application Narrative:
  - a) Cover page
  - b) Award narrative (3-page limit)
  - c) Approach to equity (2-page limit)
- 2) NSCPRF Budget
- 3) Approved charter school application (for non-BESE authorized schools)
- 4) 3-year charter budget

Each application will undergo both a technical review by Department staff and a quality review by a panel of reviewers. Department staff will review each proposal for compliance with state and law policy and with ESSER guidelines. The review panel will assess the quality of all proposals.

**Cover Page**

Provide a one-page cover page that includes the following information:

- Request date
- LEA name
- School name
- Primary point of contact name, email, and phone number
- Funding amount requested

**Award Narrative (3-page maximum)**

Respond to the following prompts in no more than three pages.

(1) Describe the goals that a New School Choice Pandemic Response Funding grant will enable your school to achieve. Goals should be aligned to all relevant [LDE Believe To Achieve Educational Priorities](#) and should put your school on a path to satisfy the LDOE's definition of a high-quality charter school.

(2) Provide a budget narrative that describes the activities that a New School Choice Pandemic Response Funding grant will enable you to complete and that you would not have been unable to complete otherwise. Include:

- An explanation of how, as applicable, each planning activity aligns with an eligible planning expenditure, and each implementation activity aligns with an eligible implementation expenditure. (see tables above)

- A detailed description of the purpose of each expenditure, including:
    - Assumptions showing that all funds will be spent on one-time start-up activities, as opposed to ongoing operational activities and including, if applicable, only the percentage of an employee's time devoted to start-up activities.
    - The incremental impact that each activity will have on your ability to achieve your goals.
  - If applicable, a description of how the NSC grant will be used in coordination with other state and federal grants.
- (3) Describe how your school will meet the goal of being a high-quality charter school including:
- The process that your school will use to collect data and measure progress towards achieving goals.
  - Evidence of organizational capacity to complete project goals.

**Approach to Equity (2-page maximum)**

Respond to the following prompts in no more than two pages.

- (1) Provide your school's target percentages of economically disadvantaged students and special needs students.
- (2) Describe how the NSC Funds will be used to support the school in serving students who are struggling academically and at risk of academic failure.
- (3) Describe how the NSC Funds will be used to support the school in serving students with exceptionalities in compliance with all federal laws and regulations (without regurgitation of the law).
- (4) Describe how the NSC Funds will be used to support the school in serving English Learners in compliance with all federal laws and regulations (without regurgitation of the law).
- (5) Either (a) indicate that your school will participate in New Orleans' centralized enrollment process or (b) provide a detailed description of your school's admission process, including admissions requirements, lottery exemptions, lottery weights, and lottery timeline and procedures. Applicants choosing (b) may reference specific page numbers in their approved charter application where a description of the school's admissions and lottery process are already provided.

**Applications must be emailed to Christina Woods ([christina.woods@la.gov](mailto:christina.woods@la.gov)) by 5:00 pm CST on March 15th, 2023**