



#210-22

**Commonwealth of Virginia
Virginia Department of Education
Superintendent's Memo #210-22**

DATE: September 9, 2022
TO: Division Superintendents
FROM: Jillian Balow, Superintendent of Public Instruction
SUBJECT: **College Partnership Laboratory Schools**

Background

The College Partnership Laboratory Schools Fund, as set out in § [22.1-349.2](#) of the *Code of Virginia*, was first established in 2010 for the purpose of establishing and supporting College Partnership Laboratory Schools. During its 2022 Session, the General Assembly appropriated \$100,000,000 to the College Partnership Laboratory Schools Fund to support the establishment of College Partnership Laboratory Schools.

A “College Partnership Laboratory School” (Lab School) means a public, nonsectarian, nonreligious school in the Commonwealth established by a public institution of higher education, public higher education center, institute, or authority; or an eligible private institution of higher education as defined in § [23.1-628](#) (eligible institution).

Lab Schools, which are designated as public schools in Virginia are subject to all federal and state laws and regulations and constitutional provisions prohibiting discrimination on the basis of disability, race, creed, color, gender, national origin, religion, ancestry, or need for special education services.

Item [137.C.44](#) of the 2022 Appropriation Act directed the Virginia Board of Education (Board) to establish criteria and guidelines for the distribution and award of monies from the Fund

prior to disbursement. The Board is authorized to award up to \$5,000,000 from the Fund for planning grants to entities pursuing the creation of new Lab Schools. Additionally, the Board is authorized to award up to \$20,000,000 from the Fund for initial start-up cost funding grants for entities approved by the Board and awarded a contract to create a new Lab School and to distribute the remaining balance (\$75,000,000 or more) in per-pupil operating funding grants from the Fund for entities with approved Lab Schools.

Lab School Planning Grants

[Eligible institutions of higher education](#) interested in launching a Lab School may apply for a Planning Grant to support the design of a new Lab School and to assist in drafting and submitting a Lab School application. As established in the Board's [Planning Grant Guidelines](#) (Guidelines) and criteria, a Planning Grant is only meant to support the initial short-term costs associated with designing a new Lab School. Types of eligible expenses are detailed in the Guidelines.

Planning Grant requests are limited to \$200,000, with additional funding considered on a case-by-case basis and in accordance with available funds. Applicants must provide certain financial information, details of deliverables, proof of sustainability, and the capacity to launch a new Lab School in order to be considered for funding. Actual award amounts will be determined based on proposed line-item expenditures, and whether costs are reasonable and necessary.

Eligible entities are encouraged to submit a Lab School [Planning Grant Application](#), following the Planning Grant Guidelines, as approved by the Board on August 17, 2022, and the [Instructions for the Planning Grant Application](#).

For more information

More information about the Virginia College Partnership Laboratory Schools can be found on the [Lab School webpage](#). Further questions regarding Virginia's College Partnership Laboratory School or the application process may be addressed to labschools@doe.virginia.gov for more information.

JB/ES/ba