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Second round of Classroom Innovation Grant recipients announced

PIERRE, S.D. – Twenty-five Classroom Innovation Grants have been awarded to South Dakota school districts for a combined total of over \$1.3 million funded by the 2016 Legislature. The purpose of the grant program is to provide funding for developing teacher training and classroom access to virtual education and customized learning tools. Eighteen other projects were funded in the first round of Classroom Innovation Grants awarded in summer 2016.

Senate Bill 133, part of the 2016 education package, included an ongoing appropriation to the South Dakota Department of Education to provide Classroom Innovation Grants to public K-12 school districts. Second-round recipients were selected from among 30 applications.

Grant recipients will launch a variety of projects including implementing customized learning models, which personalize the teaching and learning experience; developing makerspaces and STEM labs designed to encourage experimentation and hands-on learning; and creating online, digital curriculum that meets state standards.

The following school districts have been awarded grants:

- Alcester-Hudson
- Belle Fourche
- Beresford
- Brookings
- Castlewood
- Chester
- Custer
- DeSmet
- Edgemont
- Eureka
- Faulkton
- Henry
- Howard
- Lyman
- Mitchell
- Newell
- Northwestern
- Parker
- Pierre
- Rapid City (Black Hawk)
- Tea Area
- Vermillion
- Viborg-Hurley
- Warner
- Wilmot