

SD RETHINKING K-12 EDUCATION MODELS (REM) GRANT

The U.S. Department of Education has awarded the South Dakota Department of Education a three-year Rethinking K-12 Education Models (REM) Grant in the amount of \$6,883,481. The grant aims to support educators and schools across the state in implementing high-quality instructional practices along a continuum of settings: in-person, online, or through blended learning.

Grant Objective/Activity #1: teaching online certificate

All schools will have one educator who has earned a teaching online certificate.

- The grant will fund coursework/training in delivering high quality, engaging online or blended learning for one educator from each public and private school. The coursework will be provided by a qualified institution that offers a teaching online certificate (Quality Matters, The Online Learning Consortium, etc.)
- The department will contact schools with additional details and request each school identify one individual who is interested in completing the coursework.
- Applications will be available in **September 2020**.

Grant Objective/Activity #2: Professional Learning for Educators

At least 1,600 educators will complete an online professional learning series to increase their capacity in competency-based, knowledge-rich, and whole-child instructional approaches.

- In **fall 2020**, a three-year professional learning series will be developed, and the department will make available applications for teachers and school leaders who wish to be trained to facilitate this professional learning.
- The grant will provide funding for approximately 42 teachers and principals to facilitate this free professional learning to approximately 1,600 educators. CEU certificates or graduate credits will be available.
- Professional learning series will begin in January 2021

Grant Objective/Activity #3: ReThinking Education Colloquium

Thirty school leadership teams will participate in a three-year colloquium that will explore and pilot competency-based, knowledge-rich, and whole-child instructional approaches.

- In **fall 2020**, colloquium content will be developed, and school leadership teams will be invited to apply to participate. Each team should include an administrator, two classroom teachers, a special education teacher or director, one school board member, and one parent.
- Colloquium teams will meet for two days each spring and fall and three days each summer, with the first meeting to be held in **spring 2021**.
- Classroom teachers will be able to earn nine graduate credits through South Dakota State University.

Grant Objective/Activity #4: Postsecondary Curriculum

Postsecondary curriculum that focuses on competency- and problem-based learning will be developed for pre-service teachers.

- SDSU education professors will begin developing the curriculum in **fall 2020**. It will reflect best practices and the needs of students.

Grant Objective/Activity #5: Family Engagement

The department will partner with the South Dakota Statewide Family Engagement Center (SD SFEC) to assist families in supporting their child's learning and to support schools in engaging with families.

- The grant will fund development of content and resources to incorporate into the professional learning series and the colloquium.
- The SD SFEC will gather feedback from parents across the state to discern the needs of families and inform the department and grant activities.
- An accessible bank of resources for parents will be developed to expand communication and engagement among families and schools.