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Classroom Innovation Grant recipients announced

PIERRE, S.D. – Eighteen Classroom Innovation Grants have been awarded to South Dakota school districts for a combined total of almost \$1 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.

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. Recipients were selected from among 48 applications.

“The education package passed by this year’s legislature has far-reaching impact,” said Secretary of Education Dr. Melody Schopp. “The teacher pay increase understandably garnered a lot of headlines, but less publicized pieces like this grant program are just as important. These school districts have great ideas for improving student learning through innovative projects. I look forward to watching their plans unfold.”

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:

- Big Stone City
- Brandon Valley
- Britton-Hecla
- Chamberlain (2)
- Deuel
- Douglas
- Dupree
- Gayville-Volin
- Harrisburg
- Kimball
- Madison Central
- Rapid City Area
- Rosholt
- Redfield
- Sioux Falls
- Wolsey-Wessington
- Cooperative project of several districts