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**EDITORS/NEWS DIRECTORS:** For [video](#) from the Department of Education on the topic of shared services grants, visit [news.sd.gov/media.aspx](http://news.sd.gov/media.aspx) and click on "Videos" under "Department of Education."

### Shared services grants awarded to school districts

PIERRE, S.D. – Seven proposals from South Dakota school districts will be funded under the latest round of the state's shared services grant program. The program provides incentives for districts to work together to find ways to increase learning opportunities. Six other proposals were funded in earlier rounds of shared services grants in 2016.

"These grants help some of our small districts to staff positions that they couldn't necessarily support on their own," said Mary Stadick Smith, a spokesperson for the South Dakota Department of Education. "By capitalizing on their proximity to one another, the districts receiving grants have developed strong proposals for sharing staff, which will result in enhanced learning opportunities for students."

Recipients of the third round of grants are as follows:

- The Baltic, Colman-Egan and Tri-Valley school districts will receive funds to share a curriculum specialist.
- The Canistota and Montrose school districts will receive funds to share a curriculum specialist.
- The De Smet and Elkton school districts will receive funds to share a curriculum director/instructional coach.
- The Estelline, Hamlin and Willow Lake school districts will receive funds to share an instructional coach.
- The Ethan, Mount Vernon, Sanborn Central and Woonsocket school districts will receive funds to share an instructional director.
- The Miller and Redfield school districts will receive funds to share a behavior specialist.
- The Waubay and Webster Area school districts will receive funds to share an industrial technology instructor.

Grant awards are for a three-year time period, with a 50 percent reduction in funding in year two and a 75 percent reduction in year three. Approximately \$790,000 will be distributed to these districts over the three years.