KVEC LEARNING INNOVATION PROPOSAL APPLICATION

Applications Should be E-mailed to:

Cheryl Mathis, KVEC
Cheryl.mathis@hazard.kyschools.us

Call or Text: (606) 391-8510

(Faxed copies will not be considered. E-mail receipt will establish deadlines.)

APPLICATION DUE: August 22, 2019

Applications will be scored by a panel in a scoring process that uses the enclosed application review rubric.

in•no•vate - v. To begin something new: introduce.

    -- Webster's II

Innovation is the spark of insight that leads an inventor or an artist to investigate an issue or phenomenon. That insight is usually shaped by an observation of what appears to be true or the creative jolt of a new idea. Innovation is driven by a commitment to excellence and continuous improvement. Innovation is based on curiosity, the willingness to take risks, and experimenting to test assumptions. Innovation is based on questioning and challenging the status quo. It is also based on recognizing opportunity and taking advantage of it.

In the world of education, innovation comes in many forms. There are innovations in the way education systems are organized and managed. There are innovations in instructional techniques or delivery systems. There are innovations in the way students are included in an active learning process. The list goes on and on.

An element of the KVEC mission is to identify, support and promote innovative practices in education - and as importantly - support and promote those educators and their students who are daring to be great.

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A KVEC Proposal must:

1. *Address an important challenge in education in math, behavior, low incidence, due process, or English language arts that could potientialy impact achievement for students with disabilities.*
2. *Pass through a competitive review process focused on the project's design.*
3. *Demonstrate the promise of tangible improvement in teaching and/or learning and,*
4. *Award recipients agree to present their proposed innovation at the regional Promising Practices FIRE Summit (and present their associated results at the regional Action Research FIRE Summit.*
5. *Award recipients agree to attend a one day Learning Innovation Proposal Orientation Day.*
6. *Award recipients agree to submit a district invoice form on or before September 15, 2019 for reimbursement of proposal funds.*
7. *Award recipients agree to work with district finance manager to submit invoices, packing slips and other financial documentation to support reimbursement of district proposal funds on or before business on October 1, 2019.*

How can we responsibly promote untested, unproven, but innovative practices and how can we encourage the inventors of innovations to start developing an evidence base so that over time these interventions can be held up to review and demonstrate their effectiveness?

First, we practice transparency. The Learning Innovation Proposals awarded through the KVEC are not yet tried and true. They have not yet been subjected to rigorous scrutiny. Applicants/Recipients attempt to describe the intervention in an informative and compelling way, while not making claims about its effectiveness until results can be measured and compared.

Second, we provide ongoing support for Learning Innovation Proposal recipients. Once awarded an innovation proposal, educators are connected to a broad system of available supports that include regionally based staff, colleagues and a growing virtual landscape focused through the lens of www.theholler.org.

Third, we encourage all proposalees to use Action Research designs so that, over time, we can learn if these interventions are effective. We do not mandate a specific set of metrics or require a common model, believing that the dynamics in individual classrooms/initiatives require unique designs specific to needs and outcomes. We provide incentives for proposal applicants to embed such studies into their project designs from the beginning as reflected in the scoring rubric.

Fourth, we showcase and highlight the work of Innovation proposalees. Proposalees are required to present their plan and their findings twice each year at regional Summits focused on Promising Practices and associated Action Research. As a critical mass of proposalees develops--those that have shown positive impacts on student achievement or other positive outcomes—it will enable us to promote innovations aggressively, through publications, web sites, and videos.

Fifth, we provide access to an online portal, www.theholler.org to review current and previous proposal recipients' work and videos. The video presentations can serve as a resource as you develop your own presentation about the action research you will be conducting during the 2019/2020 school year. Each proposalee will post updates at least 3 times per year on the Promising Practices Holler so interested followers remain engaged.

A note about Action Research -
Action research is a practical approach to professional inquiry. As its name suggests, action research concerns actors – those people carrying out their professional actions (for our purposes, teaching and learning) from day to day - and its purpose is to understand and to improve those actions. It is about trying to understand professional action from the inside; as a result, it is research that is carried out by practitioners on their own practice, not (as in other forms of research), done by someone on somebody else's practice. Action research in education is grounded in the working lives of teachers and students, as they experience them.
Action Research is about:
• the improvement of practice,
• the improvement of the understanding of practice,
• the improvement of the situation in which the practice takes place.
Carr, W. & Kemmis, S. (1986) Becoming Critical: education, knowledge and action research.

KVEC Learning Innovation Proposals Application

Procedures and Requirements:

The KVEC supports locally directed improvements in leadership, teaching and learning that directly improve achievement. KVEC and member districts serve as an innovation laboratory for public education with an emphasis on rural communities. The eastern Kentucky region is experiencing a renaissance that is being led by educators. The work underway is a catalytic model that will inform and support other communities working to dramatically improve educational outcomes for students in rural schools nationally and beyond.

Educators in the fifteen participating KVEC special education school districts are eligible to apply for the competitive Learning Innovation Proposals. Educators may apply for up to $1,000 in proposal funds to enhance classroom learning by implementing innovative strategies and approaches to learning.

Proposed innovations should be framed around specific teaching and/or learning goals for math, behavior, low incidence, or English language arts in regards to increasing achievement. Proposal applicants must show how they will support innovated practices to improve achievement. School staff working within special education programs are eligible to apply.

A review team using the enclosed Scoring Guide will evaluate all submissions.

On-going assistance will be available through the KVEC staff and on www.theholler.org.

Application requirements include:
1. A complete submission of application
2. Commitment to present your project and the projected impact at the Promising Practices FIRE Summit (Pikeville, KY on October 23, 2019-travel and substitute paid up to $75 by KVEC if participant stays for the entire day.)
3. Commitment to present your project and the impact at the FIRE Summit (Pikeville, KY on April 22, 2020-travel and substitute paid up to $75 by KVEC if participant stays for the entire day.)
4. Commit to participating for the entire day at the Promising Practices FIRE Summit and the Action Research FIRE Summit
5. Commitment to share project results on the KVEC interactive WEB portal
(www.theholler.org)
throughout the year (Posting must occur on Promising Practices Holler by October 15th, January 15th, March 15th and May 15th.)

Required Dates for KVEC Learning Innovation Proposals	
August 22, 2019	Deadline for Proposal Submission
August 30, 2019	Notification of Proposal Award
September 15, 2019	*submit a district invoice*
October 1, 2019	A final expense report will be due October 1, 2019. Invoices must be submitted with expense report. Incomplete expense reports will not be funded. Expense reports submitted after close of business on October 1, 2019 will not be funded.
October 23, 2019	Present at Promising Practices FIRE Summit and participate in activities for the entire day. Promising Practices FIRE Summit will be at the East KY Expo Center in Pikeville.
April 22, 2020	Present Action Research at FIRE Summit and participate in activities for the entire day. FIRE Summit will be at the East KY Expo Center in Pikeville.

APPLICATION COVER PAGE

(To be included with Application)
Applications must be submitted electronically with signatures. It is suggested that you request a read receipt with your submission.

Lead Teacher's Name and Title:	Email Address:
Team Members and Titles:	
Description of Your Classroom:	
Grade Levels Impacted:	# of Students with IEP's Involved:
School Name and Phone Number:	District:
School Address: City: Zip Code:	
Lead Teacher's Cell Number:	

Proposed innovations should be framed around specific teaching and/or learning goals for math, behavior, low incidence, due process or English language arts in regards to novice reduction. Proposal applicants must show how they will support innovated practices to improve achievement for students with disabilities.

Kentucky Valley Special Educational Cooperative funding under this proposal project are intended to be used for providing special education and related services for students with disabilities. These funds may not be used for general education purposes. Special education staff are encourage to apply.

Please indicate by underlining one specific area that most applies to your proposal application.

➢ I am submitting an application with specific teaching and/or learning goals for math in regards to increasing <mark>achievement</mark> for students with disabilities.

➢ I am submitting an application with specific teaching and/or learning goals for behavior in regards to increasing <mark>achievement</mark> for students with disabilities.

➢ I am submitting an application with specific teaching and/or learning goals for low incidence in regards to increasing <mark>achievement</mark> for students with disabilities.

- ➢ I am submitting an application with specific teaching and/or learning goals for English Language arts in regards to increasing <mark>achievement</mark> for students with disabilities.

- ➢ I am submitting an application with specific teaching and/or learning goals for due process in regards to increasing <mark>achievement</mark> for students with disabilities.

Application *must* be submitted by the *DoSE to Cheryl Mathis (Cheryl.mathis@hazard.kyschools.us).*

District:	DoSE
Floyd County	*Larry Begley*
Hazard Independent	*John Meehan*
Jackson Independent	*Christa Collins*
Jenkins Independent	*Sherry Wright*
Knott County	*Jonathan Mullins*
Lee County	*Carla Lyons*
Leslie County	Rhonda Sizemore
Letcher County	*Regina Brown*
Owsley County	*Tonya Fox*
Magoffin County	*Rudy Blanton*
Perry County	Harvey Coldwell
Pike County	*Sharon Moore*
Pikeville Independent	*Ashla Samples*
Wolfe County	Tracy Creech
Breathitt County	Wayne Sizemore

Proposal Applicant Signature_____   Date _____

Principal's Signature _____   Date _____

DoSE Signature _____   Date _____

Project Title (short, creative and on point):
_____

Step 1: Identify area of focus and a research question. What is your problem of practice and *how is it focused on improving achievement in the areas of math, behavior, low incidence, or English language arts? (Identified in the Application Process)*
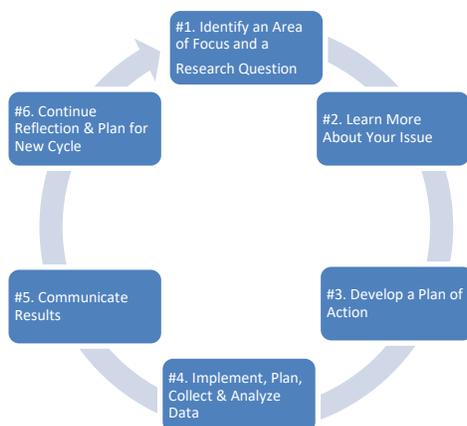
Step 2: Learn more about your issue. (*Individual and collegial examination independently*)

Step 3: Develop your plan of Action- Explain how you are going to <u>Systematically</u> study the impact of a <u>Specific strategy</u> on a <u>Specific problem.</u> This is your promising practice. (*You will present your project overview at the Promising Practices FIRE Summit in October 2019.) Visit* www.theholler.org *to see previous presentations, click on SUMMIT tab-top right of screen.*

Step 4: Implement Plan, Collect, and Analyze Data. (*This takes place between the Promising Practices FIRE Summit and The Action Research FIRE Summit.*)

Step 5: Communicate Results. (*This is the focus of the Action Research FIRE Summit in April 2019.*)

Step 6: Continue Reflection and plan for a new cycle.

Application Requirements:

Please note duplicate proposal applicatios will not be reviewed. Please don't submit the same exact proposals from a prior year. Also, note duplicate proposals from multiple applicants will not be reviewed.

1. Application Cover Page (starts on page 6).
2. Area of Focus and/or Research Question- (What is your identified Problem of Practice?)
3. Action Plan: (Minimum of 250 words) What will you implement to address the problem of practice? What resources are needed? Who is involved? How are your students actively involved –include examples of what students will actually do? What is the timeline? (Please remember you are <u>Systematically</u> studying the impact of a <u>Specific strategy</u> on a <u>Specific problem</u>).
4. How will you evaluate your project outcome? What data/evidence will be collected; how will it be evidenced?
5. Budget: Provide a budget narrative that defines proposal expenditures (page 10).
6. Completed Project Summary and Digital Photo (pg. 9 of application)

Project Summary

Below are eight guiding questions that may serve to develop a summary of your proposal.

Based on your response to these questions, write a brief summary of your proposal (a tightly constructed paragraph that compellingly describes your proposed project to your peers and the national and international audience. A digital photograph of yourself should also be submitted.

If your proposal is selected for funding, the summary and picture you submit will be used in the Promising Practices FIRE Summit Program and Action Research FIRE Summit Guide.

1. What is your problem of practice in the area of math, behavior, low incidence, due process, or English language arts in relation to improving achievement for students with disabilities?

2. How do you know this is a problem?

3. What strategy will you implement this year to address the problem?

4. What resources and personnel do you need to implement your strategy?

5. What research question will guide your study of this innovation?

6. What outcomes will prove that your innovation has succeeded?

7. How will you measure those outcomes?

8. How can you be sure that any positive outcomes on these measures are actually due to your innovation and not something else?

Budget Narrative: Please attach a sheet(s) describing how the items you have identified in your budget relate to your problem of practice and activities purposed in the application. All items must have a direct impact on student success.

Projected Budget Detail:

Description of Item/Activity	Projected Amount

Total Amount Requested: _____

1. Project funds **must be spent** prior to October 1, 2019.

2. A final expense report will be required – due October 1, 2019. Invoices must be submitted with expense report. Incomplete expense reports will not be funded. Expense reports submitted after close of business on October 1, 2019 will not be funded.
3. Budgets that exceed $1,000 will not be considered for funding.

Scoring Guide KVEC Learning Innovation Proposal

	3	2	1
A. Innovation	Proposal directly addresses innovation with the intent of improving learning and has the potential for direct impact on achievement for students with disabilities.	Proposal's innovation may be stated or inferred and/or only minimal evidence is provided to support its claims to improve teaching and learning for students with disabilities who are at risk for dropping out of school.	Innovation may be inferred but is not directly addressed to support its claim to improve teaching and learning for students with disabilities who are at risk for dropping out of school.
B. Project Goals	Goals for the project are clearly described and thoroughly documented; proposal supports Innovative practices of the KVEC mission. The proposal fully supports math, behavior, low incidence, or English language arts goals in relation to achievement for students with disabilities.	Purpose is stated and some evidence of need is provided. The proposal aligns with the Innovative practices of the KVEC mission. The proposal does not fully support math, behavior, low incidence, or English language arts goals in relation to achievement for students with disabilities.	Project's purpose is unclear or does not address the Innovative practices of the KVEC mission. The proposal does not support math, behavior, low incidence, or English language arts goals in relation to achievement for students with disabilities.
C. Project Design	Project has a strong and innovative design with procedures and activities that are well defined, fully explained, and link to improving achievement for students with disabilities. Special education staff and students are actively involved in the work.	Project has adequate design with procedures and activities that are defined but somewhat lacks innovation. More teacher focused instead of student focused.	Project design is vague and not clearly linked to project goals or innovation. Program-based relying on software or hardware.
D. Impact	Proposal describes the short and long term impact to students with disabilities, the school, the larger school community and special education staff in terms of achievement.	Proposal describes impact but does so only in general terms. Specifics are lacking.	Proposal does not describe either short or long term impact or both.
E. Plans for Project Evaluation	Proposal includes a variety of methods to evaluate the project. Improved teaching and learning outcomes are addressed in regards to improving achievement.	Proposal includes at least one method to assess participants or evaluate the project.	Proposal does not include any methods to assess participants or project. Or, the methods are vague.
F. Budget	Budget is complete and contains all required information. Budget is cost effective and linked to activities and outcomes that will be sustainable.	Budget is complete but is not cost effective and/or related to activities and outcomes and does not address sustainability	Budget lacks required information or includes unallowable expenditures.
G. Sustainability	Proposal directly addresses sustainability and provides compelling evidence to support its claims.	Proposal's sustainability may be stated or inferred and/ or only minimal evidence is provided to support its claim	The proposal does not address or fails to provide evidence of sustainability
H. Staff Involvement	Proposal involves a special education teacher plus two or more of the following: related service provider, paraprofessional, parent regular education teacher, or peer tutor.	Proposal involves a special education teacher plus one of the following: related service provider, paraprofessional, parent regular education teacher, or peer tutor.	Proposal involves only a special education teacher.

I acknowledge by initialing the boxes that I will:

	attend the Promising Practices FIRE Summit and Action Research FIRE Summit (*participation the entire day is a requirement*)
	develop a poster that tells the story of the work you are doing with your proposal proposal and deliver a presentation at the Promising Practices FIRE Summit and participate in the entire day.
	develop and deliver a 10-minute PowerPoint presentation and prepare a table to display at the Action Research FIRE Summit and participate in the entire day
	be part of an on-going support network on www.theholler.org, making posts at least four times during the school year – by October 15th, January 15th, March 15th and the final post by May 15th
	complete the appropriate paper work for reimbursements and expenditures by following established KVEC/USDOE procedures
	completing all requirements in a timely manner
	submit a final expense report by with invoices October 1, 2019

(This completed form must be returned with Application or application will not be considered.)

I understand that by accepting this award, I agree to abide by the approved guidelines listed above.

_____
Signature of Proposal Recipient
Date

The Learning Innovation Proposal competition focuses on classroom implementation of practices in math, English language arts, low incidence, college and career readiness, due process & behavior that shows promise for improving graduation rate for special education students within the 15 KVEC special education districts.