



Investing in Innovation for Education

Purpose of the Investing in Innovation Program

The Investing in Innovation (i3) fund is an initiative to support school districts, groups of schools, educational service agencies, and community organizations in their efforts to improve student achievement, increase high school graduation rates and improve college enrollment and completion. Under the i3 bill, competitive grants will support promising, innovative ideas to improve student outcomes. Applicants are required, unless waived, to secure a private or nonprofit match, currently set at 20 percent. This legislation will move the i3 program into permanent law.

The i3 bill promotes flexibility and ‘out-of-the-box’ ideas

- ❖ Priority for grant awards will go to applicants proposing to:
- ❖ Improve early learning outcomes;
- ❖ Support college access and success;
- ❖ Support family and community engagement;
- ❖ Address the unique learning needs of students with disabilities or English learners;
- ❖ Support the effective use of education technology to improve teaching and learning;
- ❖ Improve the teaching and learning of STEM subjects; or
- ❖ Serve schools in rural communities.

Focus includes teacher and principal training, improved schools

- ❖ The program focuses on these topic areas:
- ❖ Increasing teacher and principal effectiveness;
- ❖ Turning around low-performing schools; and
- ❖ Making standards and assessments more practical, and improving data systems

The i3 bill includes dedicated funds for rural schools

- ❖ 25 percent of the funds awarded must be to grantees from rural areas, as follows:
- ❖ A grantee of these funds may be a local educational agency in a distant or remote town, or a fringe, distant, or remote rural area (National Center for Education Services locale codes 32, 33, 41, 42, 43).
- ❖ A grantee of these funds may be an educational service agency or a nonprofit organization with demonstrated expertise in serving students from rural areas.
- ❖ A majority of the schools to be served by the project with these funds must be designated as fringe, distant, or remote rural schools (NCES locale codes 41, 42, 43).