

Teachers' Idea Fund

Investing in Manitoba Classrooms

Teachers' Idea Fund – Investing in Manitoba Classrooms

Agenda

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Purpose

- **Priority Action:** The Teachers' Idea Fund is a priority action within the government's *Better Education Starts Today: Putting Students First* strategy.
- **Improve Student Outcomes:** Encourage skilled and dedicated teachers, staff, and school leaders across Manitoba who support quality education through innovation each and every day.

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Priorities

1. Targeted Learning Supports
2. Models of Teaching and Learning
3. Mental Health and Well-Being
4. Transition in K–12 Education
5. Engage Families and Parents

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How to Submit Your Application

- **Step 1:** *Share your idea, improvement, or innovation!* Submit your idea using the online application form. The application form requires you to submit a budget and implementation plan and to highlight any areas of potential risk.
- **Step 2:** *Demonstrate school authority endorsement.* Projects submitted will require school authority endorsement.
- **Step 3:** Once complete, your proposal will be submitted for evaluation based on its anticipated outcomes.

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How might we support students with diverse learning needs?

How might we improve the mental health of students?

How might we get our students excited about fractions?

How might we prepare our students adequately for the future?

How might we organize our classrooms to accommodate different learning modes?

How might we reengage our students?

How might we improve literacy and numeracy scores?

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Demographics

Step One: Contact Information and School Authority Approval

- Provide your contact information such as name, phone number, and email address.
- Provide contact information of team members.
- Indicate whether your principals support this application.

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The Innovation Purpose

Step Two: Define

What is the problem or opportunity?

- The applicant defines the identified problem.

Example:

- Students in grades K–2 in John Smith School have the lowest literacy scores in the province.

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Step Three: Define

What is your proposed improvement/innovative solution?

- The applicant defines the solution.
- Include the percentage of the target school stakeholder group represented.

Example:

iPad Program to Increase Literacy

- Implementing the iPad Literacy Program
- All students in K–2 (56% of the student body)
- The iPad program is designed to keep early readers engaged in literacy activities. This program has evidence indicating it increases students' literacy capabilities.
- Currently, John Smith School has the lowest literacy scores. The iPad program has potential to increase these literacy scores, and close the achievement gap.

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Step Four: Measure

*How will you know if your innovation has made a difference?
How will success be measured?*

- Identify and collect data to help measure the root cause(s) of the problem.
- This prevents dollars being spent on a program that is not related to the root cause of the problem.
- Additionally, applicants may include a treatment group and control group to determine effectiveness of strategy.

Example:

iPad Program to Increase Literacy

- Literacy scores will be measured before the implementation of the program (baseline) through the Fountas and Pinnell assessment, and then again after the program has been completed.

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Design and Implementation

Step Five: Plan

What do you plan to do, and what are your timelines? Which student groups will benefit from this improvement initiative?

- First Quarter
- Second Quarter
- Third Quarter
- Fourth Quarter

Example:

- First Quarter: Collect baseline data; determine participants in experimental group; determine participants in control group; ensure each group is comparable to each other. Start treatment as soon as possible.
- Second Quarter: Continue implementation of strategy. Resolve any issues with the technology.
- Third Quarter: Continue implementation and ensure data is being properly recorded; consider ways to disseminate findings.
- Fourth Quarter: Collect final data, disseminate findings, and submit final report.

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Step Six: Data

What data will you collect to determine whether there are any shifts in teacher practice and improvement in student outcomes?

- Consider both quantitative and qualitative data that are clearly tied to and directly demonstrate success of the initiative.
- Evidence might include survey data, academic achievement data, changes in school trends, video, etc.
- Quantitative data will be strongly considered over qualitative data.

Example:

iPad Program to Increase Literacy

- All baseline literacy scores for students in K–2 have been collected.
- A neighbouring K–2 school cohort has been selected as the control group, and their baseline literacy scores have been collected.
- Quantitative data will be collected.

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Impacts and Outcomes

Step Seven: Impacts/Outcomes

- What is your baseline?
- What are the expected outcomes?
- How does the team plan to share progress with others in the school during the implementation phase of your project? What ideas do you have for sharing the outcomes of the innovation with the wider education community?

Example:

iPad Program to Increase Literacy

- Baseline: pre-test literacy scores, prior to implementation of the program for both the control and treatment groups
- Expected outcomes: Literacy scores in the treatment group will increase more than the control group.
- Dissemination: After determining the program was a success, the program is shared during a Professional Learning Day.

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Risks

Step Eight: Risks

- Describe your risks and possible unintended consequences and how to mitigate the risks.

Example:

iPad Program to Increase Literacy

- halt in program due to COVID-19 restrictions
- disruption in staffing due to illness

Mitigation strategies:

- Depending on stage of implementation, request an extension, pivot the project (e.g., remote implementation)
- Identify co-teacher to continue with the implementation of the project.

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Step Nine: Budget

- consult fees/honorariums
- purchase of equipment and/or software licensing used to directly support the project
- materials, supplies, and other consumables necessary to conduct the project
- teacher release/sub costs and/or costs towards educational assistant or other staff pertinent to the success of the project
- costs associated with a workshop
- costs associated with monitoring and evaluation and dissemination of findings
- costs involved in providing training and/or development in novel/innovative techniques

Example:

Item	Cost
iPads (12)	\$5,817
Literacy Program	\$8,400
Education Assistant (.2 FTE)	\$1,800
Research Assistant (.2FTE)	\$1,500
Teacher and EA Training	\$1,200
Total	\$18,717

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Non-eligible Expenses

- professional membership fees or subscriptions
- professional development not related to the project
- computer hardware (unless specifically required for the project)
- overhead expenses (classroom space)

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Education Return on Investment

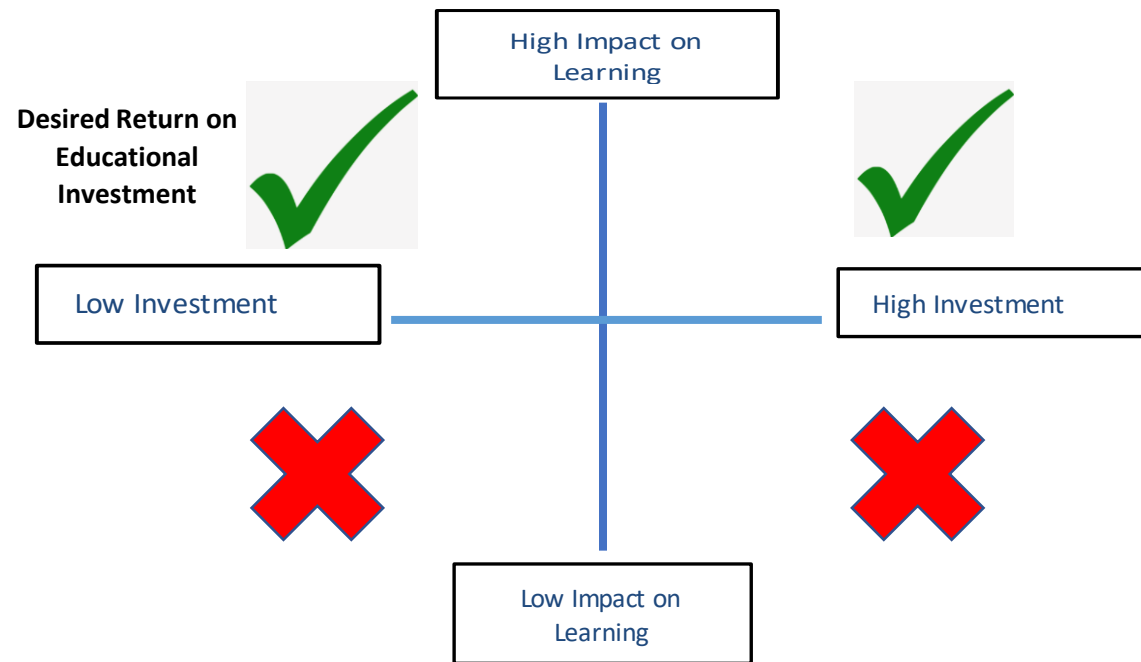
- Funding invested into Teachers' Idea Fund projects should result in positive student outcomes.
- Return on Investment (ROI) is a regular metric used in the business industry to estimate value for money.
- This can be difficult (but not impossible) to apply in the context of education.
- The “return” would be measurable improvement in student outcomes.
- Many investments within school settings are instructional programs in which benefit is quantified based on student achievement or growth, and not in dollars.



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Education Return on Investment Matrix

- Least desirable outcome would be if a project falls in the low impact on student achievement/high investment category.
- A favourable outcome would be high student achievement/low investment.



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Reminders

- **Timeline:** \$25,000 and under—proposed projects must be completed within one school year.
- **Critical Friend:** This is a partnership with an external or internal support person who can act as a critical friend to the project, supporting the applicant with the design, implementation, data collection and analysis, and reporting.
- **Improve Outcomes:** Use research and data to enrich teacher development and improve student outcomes.
- **Disseminate Findings:** Plan for sharing the learning and findings.

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Larger Scale Projects

- A separate application form will be online shortly.
- Applicants may apply for multi-year funding, up to five years (2021/22–2025/26).
- Larger-scale projects serve Kindergarten-through-Grade-12 students in public schools.
- Scale up projects—apply for funding to support expansion of projects that are supported by strong evidence of effectiveness.
- Include projects that have evidence or can show strong potential (evidence of promise) in
 - improving student achievement/well-being
 - closing achievement gaps
 - decreasing dropout rates
 - increasing high school graduation rates
 - improving transitions

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Teachers' Idea Fund Review Advisory Panel

- **Review Advisory Panel members comprise diverse specialists, including individuals from**
 - post-secondary institutions
 - innovation sector
 - industry and business
 - government (Manitoba Education representative)
 - educators (K–12 education)

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Evaluation Criteria

Factor	Weight
Purpose: Proposal demonstrates understanding of the intent and purpose of the project and of the fund by clearly identifying the need to be addressed using a range of relevant evidence; describing the innovative practice selected, including details of why this practice is likely to be worth pursuing and effective; understanding the needs of students who are involved in the innovation.	30%
Methodology and Design: Proposal provides a clear action plan that describes the actions, the data that will be collected to determine shifts in teacher practices, implementation, and outcomes for students. Proposals includes a well thought-out plan for sharing learning and findings.	20%
Impact/Outcomes: Proposal demonstrates knowledge and understanding of research and evaluation design that will provide high quality information on impact and outcomes.	20%
Budget: Investments allocated must align with the purpose, scope, scale, and expected benefits of the project.	20%
Risks: Proposal identifies the key risks that could potentially hinder the success of the proposal, including the likelihood of occurrence, and how the risk can be mitigated.	10%
Overall Proposal Score	

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Follow-up: My application was successful! Now what?

- Applicants will learn the results in June.
- Successful applicants will be invited to a seminar in August.
- A toolkit will be available to assist project implementation.
- Funding agreements will take place between the teacher, school, and school division.
- A report template will be developed to submit back to Manitoba Education.
- A Microsoft Teams group will be created to allow for collaboration and to learn from/about other projects.
- A follow-up session will be scheduled midway through the school year.

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Questions?

- **Questions?** If you have any questions about this fund or the application process, please contact teachersideafund@gov.mb.ca.