

MEMORANDUM

TO: District Superintendents
Principals
Public Information Officers

FROM: Dr. Abbey S. Duggins
Deputy Superintendent, Division of College, Career, and Military Readiness

DATE: January 27, 2026

RE: Arts Curricular Innovation Grants—2026-27 Distinguished Arts Program Grant Opportunity

The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) announces that the 2026–27 Request for Proposals for the Arts Curricular Innovation Grants (ACIG)—**Distinguished Arts Program** grant is now available online. Approximately \$700,000 in funding will be distributed on a competitive basis and the deadline to apply is **April 17, 2026**.

For this funding round, the SCDE will fund one-year projects to schools and districts proposing arts initiatives that significantly improve student achievement in the arts and include all arts forms—dance, music, theatre, and visual arts—over a three-year period of their strategic arts plan.

The SCDE will offer a technical assistance webinar for interested grant applicants on **February 26, 2026, from 3:30 p.m.–5:00 p.m.**, via [Adobe Connect](#). Participants may log in up to 30 minutes in advance of the session to test their equipment and access handouts.

Visit the [SCDE Grant Opportunities](#) webpage for updated information on grants, eligibility, application deadlines, and technical assistance. For more information about the ACIG programs, contact Roger Simpson at 803-734-0715, rsimpson@ed.sc.gov, or Stephen Stokes at 803-734-3461, ssokes@ed.sc.gov.