

# Policy Statement

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**Policy Title:** VCS and EPCS Grant Policy Statements  
**Effective:** August 11, 2016  
**Approved By:** Valparaiso Redevelopment Commission  
**Last Updated:** August 11, 2016

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## **Introduction**

The following Policy Statement defines the acceptable use of Education Challenge Grant (“Grant”) funds provided by the City of Valparaiso Redevelopment Commission (“Commission”) to both the Valparaiso and East Porter School Districts.

## **Policy Statement**

The Valparaiso Redevelopment Commission reimburses schools districts through grants for project-based capital acquisitions which enhance the problem solving, collaboration, and analytical skills needed for 21<sup>st</sup> century jobs. Based on this objective, funds awarded by the Commission may only be used for capital-based expenditures that have an estimated lifespan of no less than three years.

## **Background**

In 2012, the Valparaiso Redevelopment Commission (“Commission”) established a funding priority to make funds available to both the Valparaiso School Corporation and East Porter School Corporation for technology based capital acquisitions. The Commission believes assisting local school districts in this area furthers its legal mandate to engage in redevelopment activities.

## **Legal**

Pursuant to Indiana Code § 36-7-25-7, the Commission, with certain limitations, may use tax increment funds for the purpose of funding the Educational Challenge Grant program.

## **Procedure**

Reimbursement Grants are for one-time, project-based expenses. The project must use advanced methods or technologies that offers students an education that is competitive in the global economy.

The school district may submit an application for reimbursement by May 30<sup>th</sup> of each year. The application must describe the project and explain how expenditures have enhanced the problem solving, collaboration, and analytical skills of its current students. The application must also be signed by the Superintendent of the school district.

Each school corporation may apply up to \$3,000 of its Grant funds to the Arts as a match to State grants. If a state grant is not awarded, the funds may only be used for capital-based expenditures that have an estimated lifespan of no less than three years.

Upon receipt and review of an application, the Commission will notify the schools district if the project meets the objectives of the Grant program and is approved. On or before November 20th, the school district must submit receipts evidencing that funds were paid for items identified in the approved application. Failure to file with the Commission either a timely application or receipts may render the project ineligible for funding. The Commission reserves the right to seek additional information relating to the project prior to reimbursement.

Grant funds cannot be used to subsidize ongoing operating expenses, salary add-ons, personal expenses, or travel expenses. Any training expenses the school district wants to be considered for reimbursement must be submitted for pre-approval at least two months in advance of the grant application deadline.

**Disclaimer**

Grant funds are subject to available funding in the Commission's annual budget and are provided at the sole and absolute discretion of the Commission. Grant fund availability is also subject to any limitations as provided in bond covenants, resolutions or applicable federal, state and local laws.