Agency Name:	Governor's School for Science and Mathematics		
Agency Code:	H650	Section:	10

Fiscal Year FY 2027-2028

Agency Budget Plan

FORM A - BUDGET PLAN SUMMARY

	For FY 2027-2028, my agency is (mark "X"):	
OPERATING REQUESTS *(FORM B1)*	X	Requesting General Fund Appropriations.
		Requesting Federal/Other Authorization.
		Not requesting any changes.

	For FY 2027-2028, my agency is (mark "X"):	
NON-RECURRING REQUESTS *(FORM B2)*		Requesting Non-Recurring Appropriations.
		Requesting Non-Recurring Federal/Other Authorization.
	X	Not requesting any changes.

	For FY 2027-2028, my agency is (mark "X"):	
CAPITAL REQUESTS *(FORM C)*	X	Requesting funding for Capital Projects.
		Not requesting any changes.

	For FY 2027-2028, my agency is (mark "X"):	
PROVISOS *(FORM D)*		Requesting a new proviso and/or substantive changes to existing provisos.
		Only requesting technical proviso changes (such as date references).
	X	Not requesting any proviso changes.

Please identify your agency's preferred contacts for this year's budget process.

	Name	*Phone*	*Email*
PRIMARY CONTACT:	Fionia Washington	(843) 383-3906	fwashington@govemors.school
SECONDARY CONTACT:	Thomas Kaminer	(803) 737-0526	Thomas.kaminer@admin.sc.gov

I have reviewed and approved the enclosed FY 2027-2028 Agency Budget Plan, which is complete and accurate to the extent of my knowledge.

	Agency Director	*Board or Commission Chair*
SIGN/DATE-.	Dal Sdl 9/26/25	
TYPE/PRINT NAME-.	Daniel S Doozel	Robert J Brown

This form must be signed by the agency head – not a delegate.

Agency Name:	Governor's School for Science and Mathematics
Agency Code:	H650
Section:	10

BUDGET REQUESTS			FUNDING					FTES				
Priority	Request Type	Request Title	State	Federal	Earmarked	Restricted	Total	State	Federal	Earmarked	Restricted	Total
1	B1 - Recurring	Step Increase Support for Instructors	188,787	0	0	0	188,787	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	B1 - Recurring	Operating Expense Increase	209,089	0	0	0	209,089	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3	C - Capital	Engineering and Research Building	30,500,000	0	0	0	30,500,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4	B1 - Recurring	Expanding Statewide STEM Access Through Partnerships with the South Carolina Technical College System	300,000	0	0	0	300,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5	B1 - Recurring	Sustaining and Expanding Summer Research Partnerships with USC Columbia and Clemson	300,000	0	0	0	300,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6	C - Capital	Furniture and Flooring Updates	1,300,000	0	0	0	1,300,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTALS			32,797,876	0	0	0	32,797,876	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Agency Name:	Governor's School for Science and Mathematics		
Agency Code:	H650	Section:	10

FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY

1

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE

Step Increase Support for Instructors

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT

General: $188,787

Federal: $0

Other: $0

Total: $188,787

What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2027-2028? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS

0.00

Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST

Mark "X" for all that apply:	
X	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	IT Technology/Security related
X	HR/Personnel Related
	AI Related
	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
X	Education, Training, and Human Development
	Healthy and Safe Families
	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
	Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS

1.1 Provide the best credentialed and most experienced teachers in all subjects.

This request allows the South Carolina Governor's School for Science and Mathematics to recruit and retain exemplary instructors.

What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

RECIPIENTS OF

GSSM instructors. Per Provisos 1A.4 and 1A.31, GSSM must provide its instructors with annual step increases. The requested funds will be allocated based on the instructor's education level and years of experience. The Provisos require that the

FUNDS	institution utilize the Teacher Salary Schedule authorized by Darlington County School District as a base.

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST	ISSUE: The South Carolina Governor's School for Science and Mathematics (GSSM) is dedicated to delivering rigorous, STEM-focused educational opportunities to South Carolina's most motivated and talented students both on campus and virtually through partnerships with school districts statewide. To fulfill this mission, GSSM relies on highly qualified faculty whose expertise and commitment are essential to student success. Per Provisos 1A.4 and 1A.31 of the South Carolina General Appropriations Act, GSSM is obligated to provide annual step increases to its instructors in alignment with the teacher salary scale adopted by the Darlington County School District. These state-mandated adjustments create recurring personnel costs that must be funded to ensure compliance and the retention of top instructional talent. SOLUTION: GSSM requests $188,787 in recurring personnel funding to fully support FY27 faculty step increases, comprised of: • $140,886 in recurring salary expenses, and • $47,901 in recurring employer contribution expenses. This request ensures that GSSM can continue to provide the mandated salary adjustments without diverting operating funds from other mission-critical educational and student support programs. METHODOLOGY: Faculty step increases are calculated annually by comparing each instructor's base salary from the prior year with the current year's salary as set by the Darlington County School District's scale. The percentage increase is determined by an instructor's years of teaching experience and highest level of education, then applied to GSSM faculty salaries. For FY27: The average step increase was 3.1%, or $2,997.57 per faculty member, across 47 instructors. Employer contributions are projected at 34%, equaling $47,901. The combined recurring impact totals $140,886. IMPACT: State law requires GSSM to provide annual step increases to all full-time instructors. Without recurring funding, GSSM would be forced to absorb these mandated costs by reallocating limited operating funds, contrary to state budgeting guidelines and to the detriment of instructional and student support programs. Approving this request ensures compliance with statutory requirements, supports the retention of highly qualified faculty, and sustains GSSM's ability to deliver world-class STEM education to South Carolina's future workforce.

Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

Agency Name:	Governor's School for Science and Mathematics		
Agency Code:	H650	Section:	10

FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY

2

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE

Operating Expense Increase

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT

General: $209,089

Federal: $0

Other: $0

Total: $209,089

What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2027-2028? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS

0.00

Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST

Mark "X" for all that apply:	
X	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	IT Technology/Security related
	HR/Personnel Related
	AI Related
	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
X	Education, Training, and Human Development
	Healthy and Safe Families
	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
	Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS

1.2: Provide the best advanced education for South Carolina's most talented and motivated students by continually advancing residential, online, and Statewide Services curriculum offerings.

This recurring operating budget increase is necessary to offset inflationary expenses, which impact our ability to maintain current service levels and meet our mission to provide a high-quality, STEM-focused education to our students.

What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

RECIPIENTS OF

External vendors

FUNDS	

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST	ISSUE: According to the Consumer Price Index (CPI), prices across all major categories increased by 3.2% between July 2025 and June 2026. This inflationary growth directly impacts the institution's ability to purchase goods and services necessary to sustain its academic, residential, and statewide service programs. Without an adjustment for inflation, the value of the current budget diminishes, challenging GSSM's ability to fulfill its mission effectively. SOLUTION: The institution requests a 3.2% increase in its operating expense budget to offset the effects of inflation. This adjustment will allow GSSM to continue providing high-quality educational programming, maintain operational standards, and meet student and staff needs without compromising quality or scope. METHODOLOGY: In FY26, the institution incurred $6,531,400 in operating expenses. Applying the updated adjustment of 3.2% results in an additional $209,089 in required recurring funds. This methodology ensures the request is data-driven and directly tied to federal inflationary benchmarks. IMPACT: If additional funding is not provided, GSSM will be forced to absorb inflationary costs within its current appropriation, resulting in fewer available resources for student services, academic programming, and campus operations. Over time, this erosion of purchasing power will limit the institution's ability to: maintain a safe and healthy residential environment for students, faculty, and staff; provide necessary supplies, materials, and contracted services at current standards; and, sustain the quality and competitiveness of STEM education offered to South Carolina's most talented students. Recurring inflationary adjustments are essential to protect core operations and ensure that GSSM continues to deliver world-class STEM education in alignment with state priorities.

Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

Agency Name:	Governor's School for Science and Mathematics		
Agency Code:	H650	Section:	10

FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY

4

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE

Expanding Statewide STEM Access Through Partnerships with the South Carolina Technical College System

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT

General: $300,000

Federal: $0

Other: $0

Total: $300,000

What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2027-2028? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS

0.00

Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST

Mark "X" for all that apply:	
X	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	IT Technology/Security related
	HR/Personnel Related
	AI Related
	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
X	Education, Training, and Human Development
	Healthy and Safe Families
	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
	Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS

3.2 Enhance and expand high-quality statewide academic programs developed and delivered.

GSSM serves as a statewide resource for advanced STEM education and has a demonstrated capacity to extend high-quality academic opportunities beyond its residential program. This request will provide recurring support for GSSM's summer STEM programming for elementary and middle school students through a strategic partnership with the South Carolina Technical College System across all 16 technical college campuses.

Recurring state support will strengthen and sustain this statewide model by providing a predictable funding source for program delivery, allowing GSSM to plan consistently with technical college partners, and ensuring students throughout South Carolina have access to rigorous STEM experiences regardless of geography or local resources.

Performance will be evaluated through the number of campuses participating, student enrollment and participation, geographic reach, program completion, educator engagement, student feedback, and continued development of STEM pathways. These measures will demonstrate the extent to which the investment expands access to advanced STEM education and supports South Carolina's long-term workforce development priorities.

What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS

South Carolina public school students, with a primary focus on elementary and middle school students participating in GSSM's statewide summer STEM programming.

The South Carolina Technical College System and its 16 technical college campuses will serve as key implementation partners. Funding will support direct program costs, including curriculum and instructional support, educator participation, program materials, and operational expenses necessary to deliver consistent, high-quality programming statewide. Funds will be allocated through established program planning and partnership arrangements based on program needs and actual delivery costs.

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST

ISSUE: For more than 26 years, the South Carolina Governor's School for Science and Mathematics (GSSM) has delivered high-quality, affordable summer camp programming statewide in disciplines such as Engineering, 3D Animation, Game Design, and Biological Sciences. To maximize statewide impact, GSSM employs public-school teachers from across South Carolina to deliver innovative STEM content through the Go SciTech Day Camp program.

This work supports the broader SC NEXUS for Advanced Resilient Energy initiative, a federally designated Regional Technology and Innovation Hub focused on advanced energy and workforce development. The SC NEXUS consortium, led by the South Carolina Department of Commerce and supported by universities, technical colleges, national labs, and industry partners, has secured $45 million in federal funding to accelerate clean-energy innovation, workforce training, and statewide economic competitiveness. GSSM is recognized as the leading K-12 partner in SC NEXUS, positioning the institution to help build the STEM talent pipeline needed to support South Carolina's emerging technology and advanced-energy economy.

Despite the program's statewide value, current operations rely on annual fundraising by the GSSM Foundation rather than recurring state support. This limits long-term sustainability, constrains predictable program expansion, and places continued access to high-quality STEM programming at risk.

SOLUTION: GSSM proposes recurring state support for its partnership with the South Carolina Technical College System, creating a sustainable statewide delivery model for advanced STEM summer programming. In the summer of 2024, GSSM delivered programming at 10 of the 16 technical college campuses, reaching more than 200 students and engaging local educators statewide. Building on that success, GSSM expanded the program to all 16 technical college campuses during the summer of 2025.

Recurring General Fund support will allow GSSM to sustain and institutionalize this statewide footprint rather than depend on annual private fundraising. It will also strengthen the connection between K-12 STEM education, technical education, workforce development, and the strategic priorities of SC NEXUS.

METHODOLOGY: GSSM's summer camp expenses exceed $500,000 annually, with nearly half of these funds used to compensate local South Carolina public-school teachers for curriculum delivery and instruction. Investment benefits both students

and educators. Remaining expenses support curriculum development, instructional materials, student programming, and the operational infrastructure necessary to deliver high-quality STEM experiences at scale.

The expansion to all 16 technical colleges was strategically supported by SC NEXUS, which recognized the program as a cost-effective and scalable approach to extending STEM education and teacher engagement statewide. The $300,000 recurring request will provide a stable state funding source to sustain this statewide partnership and support continued program delivery and growth.

IMPACT: Recurring state support will enable GSSM to maintain and strengthen Go SciTech Day Camps across all regions of South Carolina, providing equitable access to advanced STEM learning for students in urban, rural, and underserved communities. The program introduces students to STEM pathways at an early age, connects them with educators and technical college resources, and strengthens the state's pipeline of future technical and STEM talent.

GSSM's role within SC NEXUS demonstrates how a targeted state investment can multiply impact by supporting a proven statewide program while helping position the institution to leverage additional federal, foundation, university, and private-sector resources. Continued state funding increases the likelihood of attracting additional external support that can further expand the program's reach.

In essence, the requested $300,000 is an investment in a proven statewide STEM delivery infrastructure. Recurring funding will provide stability, expand access, strengthen the connection between K-12 education and technical education, and help position South Carolina students and educators to participate in the state's growing advanced technology and workforce economy.

If recurring funding is not received, GSSM will remain dependent on annual private fundraising to sustain a program that has already demonstrated statewide demand and value. This creates financial uncertainty, limits long-term planning, and may constrain the institution's ability to maintain the full statewide footprint and capitalize on future partnership and external funding opportunities.

Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

Agency Name:	Governor's School for Science and Mathematics		
Agency Code:	H650	Section:	10

FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY

5

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE

Sustaining and Expanding Summer Research Partnerships with USC Columbia and Clemson

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT

General: $300,000

Federal: $0

Other: $0

Total: $300,000

What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2027-2028? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS

0.00

Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST

Mark "X" for all that apply:	
X	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	IT Technology/Security related
	HR/Personnel Related
	AI Related
	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
X	Education, Training, and Human Development
	Healthy and Safe Families
	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
	Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS

3.1 Enhance GSSM's advanced research program opportunities for students.

GSSM's mission is to provide a transformative STEM education that cultivates joy in learning and supports South Carolina's workforce and economic development efforts. The institution's innovative summer research program, which is a graduation requirement, exposes students to mentored research opportunities at the state's R-1 universities, the University of South Carolina Columbia and Clemson University. These partnerships benefit the state by increasing in-state recruitment and retention.

What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

RECIPIENTS OF

The use of funds will be evaluated through student participation and completion rates, the number and strength of university research partnerships, research placements, student outcomes, and continued enrollment or matriculation in South

FUNDS	Carolina higher education institutions. These measures will demonstrate whether the investment is expanding meaningful STEM research opportunities and strengthening the state's future talent pipeline.

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST	ISSUE: GSSM's rigorous STEM-focused curriculum and research opportunities are central to the institution's educational model and national reputation. A hallmark of the GSSM experience is the required six-week immersive summer research program, in which students work with professional researchers and contribute to active projects. The program currently relies on Foundation fundraising to offset contractual costs associated with university partnerships. Without recurring state support, this essential academic requirement remains dependent on unpredictable private fundraising, creating uncertainty for long-term program planning and sustainability. SOLUTION: The summer research program provides students with transformational, hands-on research experiences while strengthening connections to South Carolina's R-1 universities. In FY25, more than 80 GSSM students participated in research with faculty mentors at USC Columbia and Clemson University. Students conducted advanced research in areas such as hypoxia-driven cell signaling in oral cancer, non-Newtonian fluid and electromagnetic field modeling, interactive learning tools using Python, and lagoon surface-area dynamics. These experiences move students beyond classroom instruction into authentic research environments, develop advanced STEM competencies, strengthen relationships with university faculty, and create direct pathways into South Carolina's higher education and research ecosystem. METHODOLOGY: The $300,000 request is grounded in actual contractual program costs rather than an estimated or discretionary amount. In FY25, summer research expenses totaled $303,243, including $155,027 for 32 students conducting research at USC Columbia and $148,216 for 51 students conducting research at Clemson University and its extension sites in Greenville, Florence/Darlington, and North Charleston. These costs reflect negotiated agreements supporting faculty mentorship, laboratory access, and student housing during the six-week summer term. The requested $300,000 provides a predictable recurring funding source that closely aligns with demonstrated program costs and substantially reduces GSSM's dependence on variable Foundation fundraising. IMPACT: Recurring state support will protect and strengthen a cornerstone of the GSSM educational model while producing benefits that extend beyond the institution. The investment will deepen relationships between South Carolina's highest-achieving high school students and the state's premier research universities, increase students' exposure to in-state academic and research opportunities, and support recruitment and retention of highly talented students within South Carolina's higher education system. This funding will also strengthen South Carolina's long-term STEM workforce pipeline. By providing sustained access to university-level research, GSSM can continue developing students who are prepared for advanced study, research careers, and high-demand STEM fields. Stable funding will allow GSSM to preserve existing partnerships, expand high-value research opportunities when feasible, and evaluate future academic enhancements without placing the continued operation of this required program at risk. If recurring state funding is not provided, GSSM will continue to face uncertainty in financing a required component of the student experience and will remain more dependent on private fundraising to meet contractual obligations. That uncertainty can constrain program planning, limit the institution's ability to strengthen university partnerships, and create avoidable financial pressure on the Foundation. State support provides a sustainable and accountable funding mechanism for a program that directly advances GSSM's educational mission and contributes to South Carolina's future knowledge-based workforce.

Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

Agency Name:	Governor's School for Science and Mathematics		
Agency Code:	H650	Section:	10

FORM C – CAPITAL REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	3

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	Engineering and Research Building

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	$30,500,000

How much is requested for this project in FY 2027-2028? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

CPIP PRIORITY	This is a planned project and is not included in the agency's current CPIP. Once funded, it will become the top priority. If state funding is not made available in the amount requested, GSSM will evaluate a phased approach based on available funding and pursue eligible additional funding opportunities.

Identify the project's CPIP plan year and priority number, along with the first year in which the project was included in the agency's CPIP. If not included in the agency's CPIP, please provide an explanation. If the project involves a request for appropriated state funding, briefly describe the agency's contingency plan in the event that state funding is not made available in the amount requested.

OTHER APPROVALS	The institution's Board of Trustees and Foundation Board of Directors have endorsed this plan. Additional approvals will be secured through the applicable State of South Carolina capital project review and approval processes, including JBRC and SFAA, as applicable.

What approvals have already been obtained? Are there additional approvals that must be secured in order for the project to succeed? (Institutional board, JBRC, SFAA, etc.)

LONG-TERM PLANNING AND SUSTAINABILITY	The institution has invested in a fourteen-month process with McMillan, Pazdan, and Smith, an architectural firm. The project scope and design were informed by GSSM's strategic plan, statewide programmatic needs, and input from business and industry partners. The facility is intended as a long-term institutional investment supporting instruction, research, laboratory activity, and statewide STEM programming for decades. The amount already invested, future operating costs, and specific funding sources should be confirmed from institutional records before final submission.

What other funds have already been invested in this project (source/type, amount, timeframe)? Will other capital and/or operating funds for this project be requested in the future? If so, how much, and in which fiscal years? Has a source for those funds been identified/secured? What is the agency's expectation with regard to additional annual costs or savings associated with this capital improvement? What source of funds will be impacted by those costs or savings? What is the expected useful life of the capital improvement?

	ISSUE: With the generous support of the State of South Carolina, GSSM moved to its Hartsville campus more than twenty years ago. Since that time, the school has experienced exponential growth and has now reached the limits of its existing facilities. The lack of additional space prevents GSSM from expanding on-campus STEM programs for residential students and restricts its capacity to serve public school students and teachers across the state. At the same time, the South Carolina Department of Education continues to designate STEM fields as critical-needs subject areas, underscoring the urgency of scaling access to advanced STEM education and teacher development. To continue meeting the state's educational and workforce demands, GSSM again turns to state leaders for support, confident that a new investment will yield significant returns by preparing and inspiring even more students and educators.

SUMMARY

SOLUTION: GSSM is seeking state support to construct a new Engineering and Research Building on its Hartsville campus. This project has been endorsed by the GSSM Board of Trustees, the GSSM Foundation Board of Directors, and numerous corporate and state leaders. The new facility will expand GSSM's ability to serve more and extend our statewide services to more than 20,000 elementary and middle school students across South Carolina. It will also provide modern laboratory and classroom space designed for instruction and research in fields central to South Carolina's future economy, including artificial intelligence, robotics and advanced manufacturing, electric vehicles, biotechnology and life sciences, and sustainable engineering. By providing these facilities, GSSM will be better positioned to strengthen the state's workforce pipeline and ensure students are prepared to contribute to industries most critical to South Carolina's long-term economic competitiveness.

METHODOLOGY: The cost estimate supporting this request was developed in consultation with a licensed Architectural and Engineering firm. The projected scope and design were informed by GSSM's strategic plan, by statewide programmatic needs, and by input from business and industry partners who continue to identify gaps in the future workforce pipeline. The budget request, therefore, reflects both professional assessment of facility requirements and alignment with the state's long-term economic development priorities.

IMPACT: This investment will ensure that GSSM continues to deliver a strong return on investment for South Carolina by scaling its proven expertise to meet the state's STEM education needs. It will allow the school to address the shortage of teachers and students in critical-need subject areas, expand opportunities for research and experiential learning in emerging technologies, and enhance teacher training and statewide service programs across the state. By providing the resources to equip students with the skills required in biotechnology, engineering, robotics, and other rapidly evolving industries, South Carolina will secure a more competitive workforce prepared to support the state's economic growth. This project will position South Carolina as a national leader in STEM education and workforce readiness, while also ensuring that GSSM remains a vital resource for students, educators, and industry for decades to come.

Provide a summary of the project and explain why it is necessary. Please refer to the budget guidelines for appropriate questions and thoroughly answer all related items.

Agency Name:	Governor's School for Science and Mathematics		
Agency Code:	H650	Section:	10

FORM C – CAPITAL REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	6

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	Furniture and Flooring Updates

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	$1,300,000

How much is requested for this project in FY 2027-2028? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

CPIP PRIORITY	This request is for resident hall furniture and flooring updates and is identified as Agency Priority 6. The project will address aging, worn, and functionally obsolete furnishings and flooring in prioritized instructional, residential, administrative, and common-use spaces. If state funding is not made available in the amount requested, GSSM will phase the work based on available funding, addressing the highest-priority health, safety, operational, and student-use needs first.

Identify the project's CPIP plan year and priority number, along with the first year in which the project was included in the agency's CPIP. If not included in the agency's CPIP, please provide an explanation. If the project involves a request for appropriated state funding, briefly describe the agency's contingency plan in the event that state funding is not made available in the amount requested.

OTHER APPROVALS	The project will proceed through all applicable GSSM and State of South Carolina review, procurement, and approval processes. Internal project priorities and specifications will be coordinated by the institution, and any additional approvals required for procurement, installation, or capital work will be secured before work begins.

What approvals have already been obtained? Are there additional approvals that must be secured in order for the project to succeed? (Institutional board, JBRC, SFAA, etc.)

LONG-TERM PLANNING AND SUSTAINABILITY	The $1,300,000 request will support a planned, prioritized replacement of 288 sets of furniture (dorm rooms) and flooring that has reached the end of its useful service life. The project is intended to reduce the need for repeated short-term repairs and piecemeal replacements while improving the durability, functionality, appearance, and maintainability of campus spaces. Replacement materials and furnishings will be selected with lifecycle value, durability, ease of maintenance, and suitability for high-use educational and residential environments in mind. Future replacement needs will continue to be evaluated through the institution's regular facilities and operating planning processes.

What other funds have already been invested in this project (source/type, amount, timeframe)? Will other capital and/or operating funds for this project be requested in the future? If so, how much, and in which fiscal years? Has a source for those funds been identified/secured? What is the agency's expectation with regard to additional annual costs or savings associated with this capital improvement? What source of funds will be impacted by those costs or savings? What is the expected useful life of the capital improvement?

	ISSUE: GSSM's campus resident halls serve students throughout the academic year. Continued daily use has resulted in aging and worn furniture and flooring in multiple residential spaces. Deteriorated finishes, outdated furnishings, and flooring that has exceeded its optimal service life affect the functionality, appearance, maintainability, and overall quality of the learning and living environment. Addressing these needs through isolated replacements is less efficient than implementing a coordinated renewal plan. SOLUTION: GSSM is requesting $1,300,000 for 288 sets furniture (dorm rooms) and carpet replacement for 3 floors in residential halls. Funding will allow the institution to replace worn and obsolete furniture and flooring with durable, functional materials appropriate for high-use educational, residential, administrative, and common spaces. Work will be prioritized according to condition, usage, operational need, and available

SUMMARY

funding to minimize disruption to school operations.

METHODOLOGY: GSSM will identify and prioritize areas based on existing condition, frequency of use, replacement need, and operational impact. Furniture and flooring selections will emphasize durability, maintainability, functionality, and long-term value. Procurement and installation will follow applicable institutional and State of South Carolina requirements, and work may be sequenced or phased to coordinate with the academic calendar and reduce disruption.

IMPACT: This investment will improve the condition and functionality of GSSM's physical environment, provide students and employees with updated and serviceable spaces, and protect the State's investment in the campus. A coordinated replacement strategy will also reduce reliance on emergency or piecemeal repairs, support more predictable facilities planning, and help ensure that GSSM's learning, living, and working environments continue to reflect the quality of its statewide STEM mission.

Provide a summary of the project and explain why it is necessary. Please refer to the budget guidelines for appropriate questions and thoroughly answer all related items.

Agency Name:	Governor's School for Science and Mathematics		
Agency Code:	H650	Section:	10

FORM E – AGENCY COST SAVINGS AND GENERAL FUND REDUCTION CONTINGENCY PLAN

TITLE	Agency Cost Savings and General Fund Reduction Contingency Plan
AMOUNT	$570,552 *What is the General Fund 3% reduction amount? This amount should correspond to the reduction spreadsheet prepared by EBO.*
ASSOCIATED FTE REDUCTIONS	No permanent FTE reduction is planned as the first-line response. GSSM is already FTE-constrained, and reducing permanent positions would materially impair the agency's ability to deliver its educational mission. If additional reductions are required, the institution would first consider temporary and part-time staffing reductions or vacancies, while making every effort to minimize impacts on essential services. *How many FTEs would be reduced in association with this General Fund reduction?*
PROGRAM / ACTIVITY IMPACT	The General Fund supports the operating infrastructure required for GSSM to deliver a high-quality residential educational experience for academically talented South Carolina students. In FY2025-26, GSSM was appropriated $6,531,400 in operating expenses, with approximately $2,556,823 directed to essential service contracts, including dining hall operations, janitorial services, and other services necessary to maintain daily operations and a safe, functional residential campus. To meet the required reduction while protecting the core mission, GSSM would prioritize discretionary and non-essential expenditures. Planned reductions include eliminating non-essential employee travel (approximately $10,000) and reducing non-essential supply expenditures by 25% (approximately $129,516). These measures are designed to preserve resources for instruction, student support, residential operations, safety, and other mission-critical obligations. *What programs or activities are supported by the General Funds identified?*
SUMMARY	GSSM's contingency strategy is designed to absorb the required 3% General Fund reduction while limiting disruption to its core educational mission. More than 70% of the FY2026 budget was devoted to teachers and staff needed to deliver high-quality educational experiences to South Carolina students. The remaining funds support essential contractual and facility-based obligations, including dining hall operations, janitorial services, and other services required to maintain a safe and functional residential campus. Because most available funding is committed to personnel and essential operations, further reductions would directly affect service delivery. GSSM would therefore implement reductions in a deliberate sequence, beginning with discretionary travel, non-essential supplies, and expenditures that can be deferred or reduced with the least immediate effect on students. If necessary, temporary or part-time staffing reductions should be considered before reductions to core permanent positions. The reduction methodology is based on the identified 3% General Fund target of $570,552 and the specific expenditure reductions available within the operating budget. GSSM will continue to protect instruction, student safety and development, residential services, and other mission-critical functions while deferring or eliminating lower-priority expenditures whenever feasible.

Please provide a detailed summary of service delivery impact caused by a reduction in General Fund Appropriations and provide the method of calculation for anticipated reductions. Agencies should prioritize reduction in expenditures that have the least significant impact on service delivery.

AGENCY COST SAVINGS PLANS

GSSM is committed to sustained cost containment and responsible stewardship of public resources while protecting its academic mission and the quality of services provided to students. The agency will maintain stabilization funds at a prudent level to provide protection against economic downturns, unanticipated expenditures, and other circumstances that could disrupt operations.

To generate sustainable savings, GSSM will continue transitioning paper-based processes to digital workflows, reducing administrative burden, improving efficiency, and eliminating duplicative or unnecessary expenditures. The agency will also strategically review discretionary travel, supplies, contractual services, purchasing practices, and other operating expenses for additional savings opportunities.

Savings generated through these measures will be repurposed, when allowable, to sustain instructional and student-support priorities, address essential campus needs, and strengthen operational capacity. This approach emphasizes measurable efficiencies and recurring savings rather than relying solely on one-time reductions.

What measures does the agency plan to implement to reduce its costs and operating expenses by more than $50,000? Provide a summary of the measures taken and the estimated amount of savings. How does the agency plan to repurpose the savings?

Agency Name:	Governor's School for Science and Mathematics		
Agency Code:	H650	Section:	10

FORM F – REDUCING COST AND BURDEN TO BUSINESSES AND CITIZENS

TITLE	Long-Term Workforce Development and STEM-Readiness

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

EXPECTED SAVINGS TO BUSINESSES AND CITIZENS	GSSM provides cost savings to South Carolina families by offering high-quality STEM education, research, and enrichment programs at little to no direct cost, compared to expensive private or out-of-state alternatives. These opportunities save families thousands of dollars annually while ensuring equitable access regardless of income or geography. For South Carolina businesses, GSSM reduces long-term workforce development costs by cultivating a pipeline of STEM-ready students. GSSM graduates are better prepared to persist in STEM majors, reducing remediation needs and strengthening the future in-state talent pool.

What is the expected savings to South Carolina's businesses and citizens that is generated by this proposal? The savings could be related to time or money.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST	**Mark "X" for all that apply:**
	Repeal or revision of regulations.
	Reduction of agency fees or fines to businesses or citizens.
	Greater efficiency in agency services or reduction in compliance burden.
X	Other

METHOD OF CALCULATION	Summer enrichment savings: Private STEM camps typically range from $1,500–$3,500 per week. GSSM's Go SciTech summer camps, offered at significantly lower costs and with financial aid, save families an estimated $1,000–$2,500 per student per week. Business/long-term savings: Research by the National Science Foundation shows that students with strong pre-college STEM experiences are significantly more likely to persist in STEM majors. By increasing the likelihood of STEM degree completion among South Carolina students who remain in-state, GSSM indirectly reduces higher education remediation costs and strengthens the pipeline of graduates available to South Carolina employers.

Describe the method of calculation for determining the expected cost or time savings to businesses or citizens.

REDUCTION OF FEES OR FINES	N/A

Which fees or fines does the agency intend to reduce? What was the fine or fee revenue for the previous fiscal year? What was the associated program expenditure for the previous fiscal year? What is the enabling authority for the issuance of the fee or fine?

REDUCTION OF REGULATION	N/A

Which regulations does the agency intend to amend or delete? What is the enabling authority for the regulation?

	GSSM reduces the financial burden on South Carolina families by delivering a nationally regarded, high-quality STEM education and enrichment experience at little or no direct cost to families, helping save families substantial amounts compared with private or out-of-state alternatives. The impact extends beyond individual families to South Carolina businesses and the state through long-term workforce development. GSSM builds a strong pipeline of STEM-prepared graduates who are better positioned to persist in college-level STEM programs and enter high-demand fields, particularly those who remain in South Carolina for higher education and employment. By leveraging partnerships with USC, Clemson, the South Carolina Technical College System, and initiatives such as SC NEXUS, GSSM expands educational opportunities, reduces duplication of efforts, maximizes external investment, and promotes efficient use of state resources. These efforts reduce the need for families to seek costly private or out-of-state opportunities while helping businesses access a better-prepared future STEM workforce. Operationally, the request supports GSSM's continued delivery of high-quality academic, research, and enrichment programs while strengthening partnerships and maximizing the return on public and external investments.

SUMMARY

Provide an explanation of the proposal and its positive results on businesses or citizens. How will the request affect agency operations?