Waterford.org

Grant & Funding Guide

TABLE OF CONTENTS

FEDERAL AND STATE GRANTS

PreK–12 education funding includes three main categories:

1. Federal funding
2. State funding
3. Foundation funding

Funding for districts is a combination of federal, state, and local dollars. Local funding comes primarily from property taxes. Federal money accounts for just 11% of all education funding. Grants are available from federal and state monies. Grants are based on eligibility and some are competitive.

Federal funding includes the following:

Title I	**Title II**	**Title III**	**Title IV**
School Improvement	**IDEA**	**Head Start**	**Comprehensive Literacy State Development**

Title I

Title I is the largest source of federal funding, providing over $15 billion to schools with high percentages of children living in poverty. Title I's purpose is to provide all children significant opportunities to receive a fair, equitable, and high-quality education, and to close educational achievement gaps. Title I grant funding allows for extra academic support and learning opportunities directly to children who are failing, or most at-risk of failing, state and local standards.

Link to website.

Portions of funding must/can be used for the following LEA activities:

- *Parent Involvement (Mandatory)
- Homeless Reservation (Mandatory)
- Professional Development (Optional)
- **Instructional Materials (Optional)
- Teacher Incentives (Optional)

- ***Districtwide Preschool (Optional)
- Out-of-School Time Set Aside (Optional)
- Migrant Education Program (Title I, Part C)
- Neglected or Delinquent Children and Youth (Title I, Part D)

*Under the Every Student Succeeds Act, districts are required to set aside at least 1 percent of their federal Title I dollars—a program that supports disadvantaged students—for parent engagement. Other federal sources, such as Title IV, which can cover a range of issues, such as healthy schools and ed tech, also helps.

Instructional Materials. A portion of Title I funds may be used to purchase instructional materials for teachers and students. LEAs may use this to take a portion of the budgets from the school level budgets. Some school supplies, online subscriptions, and/or technology apps may be budgeted at the district level.

Districtwide Preschool. An LEA may reserve an amount from the LEA's total allocation and distribute those funds to operate a districtwide preschool program or preschool programs at specific Title I schools for eligible children. Funds may also be reserved to support other comparable public early childhood education programs to operate Title I preschool programs, such as Head Start, Even Start, and Early Reading First.

Title II

Title II, Part A are distributed with state grants and support three broad goals:

- Acquire and retain effective teachers.
- Support and grow new teachers using effective induction strategies.
- Keep, develop, and sustain teachers through retention practices, class-size reduction, and effective and continual professional development.

Link to website.

Title II, A funds may be used to provide professional development activities that improve the knowledge and instructional practices of principals, teachers, other educators, and--in appropriate cases--paraprofessionals.

The purpose is to provide high-quality, personalized development that is evidence-based and focused on improving teaching, student learning, and student achievement.

Sample allowable activities include the following:

- Use data to improve student achievement
- Help all students develop the skills essential for learning readiness and academic success
- Participate in opportunities for experiential learning through observation
- Effectively integrate technology into curricula and instruction
- Providing programs and activities to increase knowledge of instruction in the early grades to measure whether young children are progressing

Title III

Title III: Language Instruction for English Learners and Immigrant seeks to ensure that children who are English learners attain English proficiency, develop high levels of academic attainment in English, and meet the same challenging state academic content and student academic achievement standards as all children are expected to meet.

All LEAs, including but not limited to Title III subgrantees, are required to provide English learners with high-quality English language development instruction beyond the federally required English language development (ELD) program. Title III also requires subgrantees to provide high-quality professional development to classroom teachers, principals, and administrators, and to promote engagement of English learner families.

Link to website.

Family and Community Engagement. Under ESSA, English Learner students' family and community engagement is a required activity for Title III (Sec. 3115(d)(6): "Providing community participation programs, family literacy services, and parent/family outreach, and training activities to English learners and their families"). Title III funds must be set aside to provide effective outreach to families of English learners and promote parent, family, and community engagement in language instruction educational programs.

Title IV, Part A

Title IV, Part A: Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grant Overview and Purpose. The purpose of Title IV is to provide opportunities for the following areas: well-rounded education, social and emotional supports, and effective technology use and integration.

Title IV funding options include three focus areas.

- Focus Area A: Improving student engagement and achievement by improving student access to science, technology, math, STEM activities, reading, language arts, college-credit courses, and career guidance, and counseling services.
- Focus Area B: Social and Emotional Supports
- Focus Area C: Personalized Learning through Technology

Search Title IV, Part A for your state.

Title IV, Part B

21st Century Community Learning Centers Program: Title IV, Part B provides opportunities for communities to establish or expand activities in community learning centers that provide opportunities for academic enrichment and parent involvement.

Link to website.

1003a School Improvement Grants

Under the new Every Student Succeeds Act, there is no longer a separate School Improvement Grant program. State Education Agencies will set aside 7% of their Title I funds in order to serve struggling schools. States often refer to this set-aside as "Section 1003(a)" funds.

IDEA

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), provides funding for specially designed instruction for students with disabilities and the monitoring of their progress. Funding is distributed to school districts based on the number of students with individualized education plans.

The IDEA funds are used to provide early intervention, special education, and related services, including assistive technology. Up to 15% of IDEA funds can be used to implement a response to intervention (RTI) program, which provides supplemental instruction to assist students before they are given an individualized education plan.

Link to website.

Head Start

Head Start provides prekindergarten programs for children living in poverty. The Office of Head Start (OHS) helps young children from low-income families prepare to succeed in school through local programs. Head Start and Early Head Start programs promote children's development through services that support early learning, health, and family well-being.

Link to website.

Comprehensive Literacy State Development (CLSD)

The Comprehensive Literacy State Development (CLSD) program is authorized under Sections 2222-2225 of the ESEA. The purpose of the CLSD discretionary grants is to create a comprehensive literacy program to advance literacy skills, including pre- literacy skills, reading, and writing, for children from birth through grade 12, with an emphasis on disadvantaged children, including children living in poverty, English learners, and children with disabilities.

The grants will be awarded competitively to State Educational Agencies (SEAs), the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

Link to website.

Innovative Education State Grants

The Innovative Education State Grant is a formula grants under Title V designed to encourage educational innovation in reform efforts. This state-administered grant program is designed to improve student academic achievement and the quality of education for all students.

Link to website.

Small, Rural School Achievement Program

The purpose of the Small, Rural School Achievement (SRSA) program is to provide rural LEAs with financial assistance to fund initiatives aimed at improving student academic achievement.

Link to website.

Federal Funding Resources:

Federal Grant Search. The Grants.gov website provides important information to better understand the grant process, eligibility, requirements, and processes.

- **Grants.gov**

Click on the *Search Grants Tab* to find grant and cooperative agreement opportunities from federal agencies that award grants.

State Funding and Grants

There are different ways in which states allocate K-12 funding to districts. State department of education websites provide information on state and federal grant opportunities.

State funding opportunities (grants) may include the following:

- Literacy
- Early childhood
- STEM/STEAM
- Gifted and Talented
- Professional Development

- Special Education
- English Language Learner
- At-risk students (low-income)
- Family Engagement
- Base grants

Grant definitions:

- **Base Amount.** This is the minimum guaranteed dollar amount that each district receives per student, if available in statute.

- **Block Grant.** The state requires districts to apply for funding.

- **Foundation Formula.** Under a foundation formula, districts receive a base amount of funding per student with additional money or weights added to meet the needs of high-need student population.

- **General Funds.** General Funds are usually monies to be used to account for funds in which the local governing board designates. The local governing board has wide discretion in their use as provided by law. This fund usually includes transactions that are a result of revenues from local taxes, payments in lieu of taxes, foundation entitlements, State and County available and other sources.

- o In some states, the General Fund is primarily equalized state aid. Expenditures from the general fund are limited by state law and may be transferred to numerous program and weighted funds such as preschool-aged at-risk, K-12 at-risk, bilingual education, parents as teachers, special education, vocational education, professional development, etc.

- o General funds have been used for the purchase Waterford UPSTART.

K-12 Funding. The Education Commission of the States is the trusted source for comprehensive knowledge and unbiased resources on education policy issues ranging from early learning through postsecondary education. This website includes a link to a 50-State Comparison of K-12 Funding.

Link to website.

State Department of Education. Check your state's department of education for detailed information on grant opportunities.

FOUNDATIONS

Foundations can be community foundations, corporate programs, company-sponsored foundations, and family endowments. Foundations usually fund projects of organizations that support the foundation's intention, mission, and designated geographic area.

The first step is to research foundations that offer funding for your type of educational project or whose interests align with your mission, priorities, and program plans. Think about the issue your project is addressing and brainstorm key words and phrases to use in your research. If possible, look for opportunities and connections to build a relationship with the funder's board or staff members.

Think Locally First!

Most communities have local community foundations, businesses, and industries that donate or invest in education. Local organizations are invested in children growing up to be productive workers. Figure out what you need or are asking for then start with your local community foundations and local businesses to see if they will sponsor your children to be better readers. Your local Chamber of Commerce may be able to provide a list of businesses that offer grants. Establishing a connection with a foundation is a strategy that may pay off in the proposal process.

Several organizations and publishers have developed state-level foundation directories for most states or regions. Some are in print format and some are free online. They can be found at Foundation Center Cooperating Collections and are often available at local libraries. Use a web search engine to look for a foundation directory for your state.

Foundation and grant websites. The following resources are available to identify grant opportunities:

- **The Grantsmanship Center**

This website provides valuable resources for identifying federal funding programs. Scroll down to the bottom of screen and click on "Where's the Money? Find the Right Funders."

Where's the Money? Find the Right Funders ▼

The Grantsmanship Center database is available by subscription or through membership in the Center's Alumni Program. The Center researches all sites on which announcements are posted and compiles a list that includes brief information and links to all relevant URLs.

- **Candid (Foundation Center)**

Candid (previously The Foundation Center) provides subscribers with a wide range of information on foundations and grant opportunities.

- **GetEdFunding**

GetEdFunding is a grant finding resource to help educators, schools, and institutions identify funding opportunities. The website hosts thousands of education grants, including funding opportunities for public and private PreK–12 schools and districts. Register to access supplementary resources, including articles, videos, webinars, and blog posts.

- **GrantWatch**

GrantWatch for Elementary Education lists hundreds of grants for public, private, and charter schools for elementary education including STEM, flexible classrooms, career education, anti-bullying, special needs, parenting education and counseling services.

- **Grant Writers – Search for Grants**

This website provides a comprehensive list of public and private grants. Search by Education and by state or sign up for the free Grant Siren service to receive customized email or text alerts of grants that fit the district's criteria.

- **Inside Philanthropy (Subscribe)**

While K-12 education has historically attracted keen interest from foundations, there's been a surge of new funding into this space over the past 15 years. This website only looks at national education funders. All the profiles of funders are updated regularly.

- **School Funding Center (Subscribe)**

The database contains federal, state, and foundation grants available to schools in the U.S.

Tip:	Save time by finding out if the foundation accepts unsolicited proposals. Some foundations only fund pre-selected organizations.

Funding Checklist

When researching foundations, analyze the following information to ensure eligibility and a funding match.

Checklist:

Analysis	Funding Match Yes	Funding Match No
Does the foundation accept unsolicited proposals?		
Does the application require a Letter of Intent or a Letter of Inquiry?		
Does the foundation fund educational opportunities?		
What is the mission and intention of the foundation and the funding opportunity? Does it match your project?		
What geographic areas does the foundation fund?		
What are the eligibility requirements?		
What are the requirements of the grant proposal?		
Does the grant require matching funds?		
What size is the average award?		
When is the due date?		
When and how is the money disbursed?		
Is funding available for subsequent years?		
What are the requirements for the use of the funding and reporting?		

Tip: **Review the past recipient information and the funding history to view successful grant applications.**

Foundations

Education K-12

Foundation	Region	Award Amount	Website	Accepts Unsolicited
Heising-Simons Foundation: the goal of the Foundation's grantmaking in education is to prepare children from birth through age 8 for school and life.	California and the United States	Varies	Link	No
Hearst Foundation: the focus is largely on higher education, but they also fund innovative models of early childhood and K-12 education, as well as professional development for teachers.	National	Approximately $127,000	Link	Yes
Walton Family Foundation: the foundation is are making an unprecedented commitment to expanding educational opportunity. Public charter schools are a key interest.	Atlanta, Boston, Camden, Denver, Houston, Indianapolis, Los Angeles, Memphis, New Orleans, New York, Oakland, San Antonio, and Washington, D.C.	Varies	Link	No Send a letter of inquiry
Entergy Charitable Foundation: the foundation strives to ensure that every child has access to a quality education and the skills to be successful in life.	Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Hampshire, New York, and Texas	Varies	Link	Yes

Joyce Foundation: the goal is to accelerate the number of low-income students and students of color who graduate from high school prepared for postsecondary success by improving the quality of principals and teachers in their schools.	Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin	$20,000 to $200,000	Link	Yes Letter of Inquiry
Charles Lafitte Foundation: the foundation support educational programs that: • Aid students with learning disabilities • Target at-risk populations • Integrate all learners • Provide equal access • Offer programming using innovative methods • Apply data-driven approaches • Educate the whole child	Nationwide	Varies	Link	Yes Application
McCarthey Dressman Education Foundation: sponsors proposals that enhance student learning and educational quality, to those that best serve the at-risk and under-funded, including: • Curriculum that excites and challenges • Inquiry projects that promote reflection and growth • After-school programs that enrich and inspire	Nationwide	Not available	Link	Yes Apply January through April

Early Education

Foundation	Region	Award Amount	Website	Accepts Unsolicited
Heising-Simons Foundation: the goal of the is to facilitate the creation and strengthening of early childhood systems necessary for children from low-income families and children of color to reach their full potential by the year 2044.	California and the United States	Varies on grant	Link	No
Francis R. Dewing Foundation: consideration is only given to projects concerned with early childhood education, specifically ages 2 - up to sixth grade.	National	$1,000 to $20,000	Link	Yes
W. Clement and Jessie Stone Foundation: the foundation focuses on teacher development and principal leadership; early childhood education, and youth development.	Chicago, the San Francisco Bay Area, New York, Philadelphia, and Boston	$50,000 to $100,000	Link	No
Dekko Foundation: the foundation has a focus on early childhood development.	Alabama, Minnesota, Iowa, and Indiana	Not specified	Link	Yes
Charles Lafitte Foundation: the foundation support educational programs that: • Aid students with learning disabilities • Target at-risk populations • Integrate all learners • Provide equal access • Offer programming using innovative methods • Apply data-driven approaches • Educate the whole child	Varies	Varies	Link	Yes

Daniel's Fund: the mission is to ensure children are school-ready by supporting efforts to improve the system of early childhood education.	Utah, Colorado, New Mexico, and Wyoming	$75,000 (average)	Link	Letter of Inquiry
King Foundation: the foundations funds programs for education, children, and youth with community and initiative grants.	Texas and Arkansas (select counties)	$125,000 (average)	Link	Letter of Inquiry
Buell Foundation: the foundation funds early childhood development and Prek programs.	Colorado	Not specified	Link	Call Program Officer
David and Lucile Packard Foundation: the foundation believes that all children should have access to health and early learning opportunities that help them be healthy, ready for school, and on track to reach their full potential.	California	Not specified	Link	Submit a Request Online

Education and Community Impact Foundations

The following corporate foundations offer larger scale funding opportunities for innovative programs that significantly impact poverty, education, and communities:

- **Cabot Corporation Foundation**
- **Dell Foundation**
- **Ford Foundation**
- **Verizon Foundation**

Religious and Secular Funding Opportunities

Foundation	Website
The Catholic Funding Guide Online database is updated quarterly with the most current information available. It includes private foundations, church-based grants programs, foundations sponsored by religious communities, international funding agencies, and more.	Link
The Jewish Funding Guide is for religious and secular organizations seeking support for activities that address Jewish causes, primarily in the U.S.	Link

.

.

PREPARING FOR THE GRANT PROCESS

Most grant applications are released four to six weeks before the submission due date. Given this short turn-around time, there are several steps you can take to prepare for the grant application.

1. **Identify the need and prepare a Need Statement.** The Need Statement provides evidence to support the need for the project you are proposing. Conduct an analysis to determine the problem or need, and list the reasons, causes, and evidence.

    Sample Need Statement: Fifty percent of our K-2 students are not proficient in reading.

2. **Gather data and evidence of need.** Effective grant applications include data and evidence to demonstrate the need for the project and the proposed solutions.

Data can include:

- Demographic data
- State assessment results
- District or school report cards
- Parent, teacher, and student surveys
- Education research studies

The following websites provide education data and statistics:

Institute of Education Sciences (IES). IES is the nation's leading source for rigorous, independent education research, evaluation and statistics.

Ed Week State Map. The Ed Week State Map website provides information on statewide and national averages, such as percent of ELL students, NAEP scores, or children eligible for free and reduced lunch.

Federal Education Budget Project. This site is helpful to find state-level information on PreK-12 funding, demographics and achievement information.

3. **Determine the goal or the objective of the project.** What does the district want to accomplish? Which students will be served by the project? What will be the short-term and long-term results?

Sample Objectives:

- Increase reading proficiency of K-2 grade students by 5% by end of year.

- Provide 20 minutes of individualized reading intervention to K-2 students daily.
- Provide reading and literacy focused professional development quarterly for K-2 teachers

4. **Determine the solution.** Identify plans, solutions, and strategies to address the Need Statement. Solutions may include new curriculum, new programs, interventions, professional development, family engagement, or new technologies.

5. **Develop the Work Plan.** Develop a detailed work plan which includes timelines, start and completion dates, management plans, activities, and responsibilities.

   Sample Work Plan format:

Activity	Person Responsible	Start Date	Completion Date

6. **Use Smart Goals.** SMART is an acronym that is used to guide goal setting and goal measurement. Smart goals are attributed to Peter Drucker's Management by Objectives concept. Link: https://www.mindtools.com/pages/article/smart-goals.htm.

   Smart goals include:
   a. Specific
   b. Measurable
   c. Achievable
   d. Relevant
   e. Time bound

7. **Determine the budget of the project.** Knowing the cost of the project will help determine which grants to apply for. Budget can include salaries, curriculums, new program costs, professional development costs, technology costs, etc.

8. **Community partnerships.** Many grants encourage or require partnerships with community organizations. Develop partnerships that can help with the achievement of the project goals. Community partnerships can include local libraries, non-profit organizations, youth groups, and local clubs

WATERFORD'S GRANT AND FUNDING RESOURCES

Waterford's Grant and Funding Department is available to support your grant and funding efforts for Waterford's educational programs and services.

Services include:

- Waterford-specific grant application review
- Sample grant narrative for Waterford's programs and services
- Evidence documentation for Waterford's programs
- Data and statistics to support your Need Statement
- Answers to applicable grants questions