



# Grants for Great Ideas

a program of the Public Education  
Foundation of Marion County

The Public Education Foundation of Marion County is proud to offer Grants for Great Ideas to fund inspiration and innovation in the classroom during the 2023-2024 school year! Since its beginning in 1987, the Public Education Foundation's **Grants for Great Ideas** program has awarded more than 1,144 to teachers and principals in support of teaching – impacting more than 214,000 students. Over the course of this program, the foundation has given out **\$1,781,103 dollars** in grants directly to our schools.

## Who is Eligible to Apply?

- Any MCPS Pre- K through 12 grade classroom or special area teacher
- Teams of teachers
- School administrators working with their campus teachers

## Applications must meet one or more of the following categories:

- Assisting Low-Performing Students
- Career/Technical Education
- Literacy
- Increasing graduation rates
- STEM Education
- Supporting Students in Need (including Mental Health & Wellness initiatives)
- Teacher Quality

## How to apply?

- Teachers and/or administrators must log onto [apply.pefmc.org](http://apply.pefmc.org) to utilize the grant portal

## Timeline

- Grants must be completed and submitted online by **October 5th, 2023 at 11:59pm**



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Please review the following information about the program requirements

## **How may the money be spent?**

Because our grant program is partially funded through the School District Education Foundation Matching Grant Program (administered by the Consortium for Florida Education Foundations), grant money may be spent only on supplies, printing, curriculum, computer software/hardware, etc. Funding will not be approved for food, parties, recognitions, or awards. Projects need to be results-oriented with clearly defined goals.

## **Unallowable Expenditures**

- Food/Beverage/Entertainment
- Support of Interscholastic Athletics
- Capital Improvements
- Decorative Items
- Awards/Incentives
- Fund Raising
- Pre-award costs
- PDAs/Cell Phones
- Repairs and maintenance
- Out-of-state travel
- Overnight Field Trips

## **Allowable Expenditures**

- Classroom Materials
- Local Field Trips
- Educational Experiences
- Professional Development
- Program Supplies
- Computer Software & Hardware
- Other Equipment (not computers)
- Printing
- Tuition/Training/Conferences
- Admission Fees
- Room Rental Fees
- iPads, iPods, Nooks, Kindles

## **What is the accounting procedure?**

A check will be sent directly to your school to be placed in an internal account. The school bookkeeper will provide the Foundation with an Account Activity Report for a mid-year and end of grant report. This serves as proof that funds have been spent on the grant project.

## **How will the winning grants be chosen?**

A committee composed of PEFMC Board Members and/or Community Leaders will review grant applications. Projects are evaluated on their potential benefit to students, the number of students involved, project creativity and innovation, effective use of resources, potential sponsor support and evaluation methods. The review committee will receive blind applications (teacher and school names or references will be removed). This ensures that grant applications are judged on their merit and we avoid potential conflicts of interest.



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## Scoring Rubric

### What is the scoring rubric?

#### **Project Overview**

- Is the overview clear and concise (free of jargon and extraneous information)
- Do you get a clear understanding of what the grant is going to do in the classroom for the school or in the district
- Does the project come to life (can you create a mental picture in your mind)
- Does the overview identify high points of the proposal (i.e. why there is a need, what students will be doing, how this project will impact students). Do you get a strong sense of why this project is great
- Does the grant writer provide data that supports the need for the project and discuss the desired outcomes (i.e., this school year, only 35% of the students who are "at-risk" demonstrated learning gains in math. With the supplemental supports that this project will provide, we hope to exceed that number by 10% in the following school year)?

#### **Project Impact**

- Targets more than one group/class of students
- The needs of students are clearly expressed
- Incorporates more than one curricular area (math, science, tech, art, etc)
- Integrates into the total curriculum rather than a single stand-alone project
- Addresses multiple Florida Standards

#### **Project Description**

- Activities are innovative and likely to engage students
- Timeline outlines specific activities and data
- The project can/will expand beyond 1 class to other students/teachers
- The project and/or learning experience will expand beyond a single year (i.e. It can be replicated next year with limited funding, the skill set learned/practiced will assist students next year, etc.)

#### **Project Assessment**

- The evaluation tools are clearly defined and measure learning gains
- The grant proposal should include how learning gains will be determined

#### **Budget**

- All items purchased are realistic and align with the goals of the project



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## Additional Information on G4GI

### **Items of Interest:**

Please do not identify your name, school or school community when completing the application online except for when specifically asked for that information. Your grant application will be submitted for committee review as a "blind application".

### **Additional information:**

- Awards are granted on a competitive basis
- Please make sure to note the following tips and directions and completely answer all questions during the online submission process
- Pay particular attention to not request funds for a non-allowable expenditures
- If you are requesting technology you must obtain a quote from the school district - School Secretary/Bookkeepers can assist with this
- Check with your school secretary/bookkeeper for a list of approved vendors
- Do not use educational jargon or acronyms in your application as not all grant readers are educators
- Follow all directions and submit the online application on time by October 5th at 11:59pm
- Please make sure you have discussed your grant with your Principal BEFORE submitting the online application to our office. You will be asked to submit your Principals email address so they can electronically verify they are aware of your grant request.
- If awarded a Grants for Great Idea, you will be required to submit evaluation reports, documenting results based on the goals and objectives set forth in the proposal

### **If our grant is awarded, is there any other responsibility other than implementation and evaluation?**

Yes, we ask that awardees document their projects with pictures and/or videos. We also may request selected grantees to deliver a short presentation at one of our Foundation Board of Directors meetings or attend a School Board Meeting.

