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 2026-2027 school year! Since its beginning in 1987, the Public Education Foundation's **Grants for Great Ideas** program has awarded more than 1,234 teachers and principals in support of teaching – impacting more than 220,000 students. Over the course of this program, the Foundation has given out **$1,931,975** in grants directly to our schools.

Who is Eligible to Apply?

- Any MCPS Pre-K through 12th grade classroom teacher, special area teacher or teams of teachers
- School Principals /administrators partnering 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
- Teaching Quality
- Student Resiliency

Note: The review committee will give special priority to grants aligned to the districts area of focus.

How to apply?

- Teachers and/or administrators can log onto grantsforideas.pefmc.org to utilize the grant portal and follow the instructions
- Prior to the grant due date, Principals will receive notice to review the proposed G4GI project in the grant portal
- Principal approval is required in order for the grant submission to be considered by the selection committee

Timeline

- **Grants must be completed and submitted as final in the online portal by September 28th 2026 at 11:59pm. (please check the portal in case of deadline changes)**

Public Education FOUNDATION OF MARION COUNTY
Connecting Children, Classrooms & Community

The PEFMC is a non profit, 501c3 organization, with the mission to financially and materially support Marion County Public Schools, its students and teachers.

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Please review the following information about the program requirements

How may the money be spent?

G4GI funds may only be spent on supplies, printing, curriculum, computer software/hardware, and allowable expenditure listed below. Funding will not be approved for food, parties, recognitions, awards.or unallowable expenditures listed below. Budgets need to be tied to clearly defined goal of the project.

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/secretary must provide the Foundation with an Account Activity Report for a mid-year and end of grant report. This serves as proof that all funds have been spent on the grant project.

How will the winning grants be chosen?

A committee composed of PEFMC Board Members and 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 committee conflicts of interest are avoided.

Based on the number of G4GI applications received and total funds requested, the number of awards granted to each school site may be limited to one per school. We encourage teachers and Principals to work collaboratively in preparation and planning for grant submissions.

All G4GI awards are contingent upon availability of funding through the Public Education Foundation of Marion County. The program is partially funded through the School District Education Foundation Matching Grant Program administered by the Consortium for Florida Education Foundations.

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Scoring Rubric

What is the scoring rubric? (Examples shown below)

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, as pertains to the School Improvement Plan/District Strategic Plan?
- 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 one class to other students/teachers
- The project and/or learning experience can 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
- The review committee will give special priority to grants aligned with the districts areas of focus.
- Please make sure to note the directions and completely answer all questions during the online submission process
- Pay particular attention to not request funds for 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 for projected purchases
- 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 by the required due date
- Please make sure you have discussed your grant project with your Principal BEFORE submitting the online application in the grant portal
- You will be asked to submit your Principals email address during the online application process, 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 your grant is awarded, is there any other responsibility other than implementation and evaluation?

Yes, beyond the required reporting, you will be asked to document your project with pictures and/or videos. Selected grantees may also be asked to deliver a short presentation at one of the Foundation Board of Directors meetings or attend a School Board Meeting.

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