Pearland ISD Education Foundation
Innovative Teaching Grant Program

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is eligible to apply for a grant?
All Pearland ISD instructional staff and administrators are eligible to write grants that help our kids.

Can I apply for and/or receive more than one grant?
Yes. Applicants are not limited on the number of applications nor the number of awards.

Can I apply for additional funding for an existing district program or activity?
Yes. Requests for existing district programs and activities will be considered when project success and continued need are demonstrated.

If I receive a grant award, can I still receive other funds?
Yes. Receiving a Pearland ISD Education Foundation grant will not keep you from other funds your campus and/or teachers are working to get. In fact, the Foundation welcomes the opportunity to partner with other organizations to pool, or match, funds for a project.

Who is the grant review committee?
The committee is chaired by Pearland ISD Senior Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Programs and includes persons outside the employment of Pearland ISD.

Does the grant review committee know teacher or campus names?
No. Each application receives a blind review. Teacher or campus names will be removed from application prior to review.

What can be requested in the application?
Technology, field trips, equipment, materials, and professional development, but only when these activities represent one component of a well-planned project integrated with other activities that relate to district curriculum objectives and directly impact student learning.

What cannot be requested in the application?
- Equipment or materials typically acquired through district, state or federal funding
- Technology, field trips, equipment, materials, staff development activities that are **not** requested as part of a well-planned project
- Travel costs related to professional development (lodging, mileage, or per diem)
- Monetary incentives or "incentive" field trips
- Salaries (including substitute pay and speaker fees)

Tips for Successful Grant Writing

- Don't be afraid to try. You might be surprised!
- You don't have to be a good writer or use extravagant vocabulary. Just answer the questions.
- The grant application shouldn't take more than a few hours to complete.
- Before you begin, carefully read the Pearland ISD Education Foundation Instructional Guide.
- Start early. Do not wait until the last minute.
- Reread and reread. Have someone not familiar with your project read the application for clarity.
- Write as if you have already been funded for the grant and are explaining what you will be doing. (Simple future tense: We will implement…)
- Make your project upbeat, positive, and interesting.
- Include a good balance of facts and data with the element of human interest.
- Information presented in the grant application should be clear and concise.
- Providing supporting documents is not required, but for clarification purposes, may be warranted.
- Research what the actual cost will be for each budget item.
- Project should demonstrate *creativity* and *innovation*.
- Project should have a *positive impact on students* and *enhance the educational experience*.

Common Reasons for Denied Applications

- Application submitted after the due date.
- Grant writer presents good ideas, but application is written poorly.
- Project is not related to district curriculum objectives.
- Application is missing required information.
- Need has not be adequately identified.
- Project not well thought out. Portions are inconsistent with one another.
- Project is too ambitious for the amount of time and/or money requested <u>or</u> project is not ambitious enough for the amount of time and/or money requested.
- Budget is vague, inconsistent, or unrealistic.
- Not innovative, little new information gained.
- Inappropriate methods or methods too vague.
- Not as exciting as other proposals (*i.e.*, worth funding, but ran out of funds).

Common Components of Successful Projects

- Excite the reviewers
- Are easy to read and understand
- Clearly stated objectives and expected outcomes/impacts
- Have specific objectives, methods, work plan, etc.
- Have well-communicated importance of project
- Contain a detailed project description
- Include a discussion of expected outcomes

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