

2021-2022 Ephrata Area Education Foundation Venture Grants



PURPOSE:

Venture grants are awarded to individual teachers, groups of teachers, departments, and other professional employees to fund projects designed to enhance and expand educational experiences and opportunities for the students in the Ephrata Area School District.

GRANT CATEGORIES:

As in previous years, there will be three grant categories each with its own application criteria, evaluation rubric, and an allotted percentage of available funds. Focused criteria in each category will help the selection committee compare “apples to apples” vs “apples to mangos.”

GENERAL CRITERIA:

Applicants are not limited in the number of proposals they may submit.

If a grant is approved, it is strictly capped at the amount approved. Expenditures in excess of the grant amount will not be covered with Foundation funds. This is of particular note because COVID-19 has necessitated the cancelling of our three most recent major fundraisers, so funds are limited.

Grants may be used for the purchase of instructional supplies and equipment, or for expenses associated with bringing in an outside resource person or facilitator. Grants are not intended to be used for items that would normally be provided through the school budgetary process; for payments to district employees for time spent on project design; or for professional development/training. (Exceptions may be considered in cases where training/certification is required for implementation of an approved project.)

Technology proposals must be presented to and approved by Tim McCormick, Director of Technology, to ensure that district licenses or existing technology will support the requested equipment or software.

APPLICATION PROCESS:

By the first week of January 2021, an explanation of the 2021-2022 *Venture* grant program and applications for each grant category will be posted on the Foundation web site. Grant applications will be received through March 12, 2021.

Grant applications are to be typed or computer generated and, to the greatest extent possible, should NOT include the name(s) of professional employees involved in the grant within the body of the grant application.

Funds awarded are to be expended during the 2021-2022 school year between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022.

Please discuss your *Venture* grant idea with your building principal, the assistant superintendent for elementary or

secondary, and the Director of Technology, (if applicable) and have him/her sign the application cover sheet before submission.

Professional employees interested in submitting proposals should complete the grant application and e-mail it to Ann Marie Haus: by the deadline of March 12, 2021.

Annmarie_Haus@easdpa.org

SELECTION PROCEDURES:

In late March/early April, a grant committee will evaluate grant applications. The grant committee then presents their recommendations to the Ephrata Area Education Foundation board and the board makes the final approval decisions. Every effort will be made to notify grant recipients before the conclusion of the current school year.

A follow-up summary (for example, a press release for print media with photos of students and activities involved in the project; a written summary of the completed grant with photos; a Power Point or video that can be shared through social media, or a presentation to the EAEF board) must be submitted to the Foundation executive director at the close of the 2021-2022 school year.

SELECTION CRITERIA:

Proposals must promote one or more of the Foundation's current initiatives (expanding innovative learning opportunities, advancing technology, supporting early childhood, [i.e. K-4] education.)

Although seeking to make delivery of the current curriculum more effective or more efficient is a laudable goal, such proposals generally do not rank as high as “curriculum ventures” that are new and uniquely innovative.

Grants which have the potential to impact a significant number of students or a smaller, but underserved, population also tend to rank higher. Sustainability beyond the “seed money” provided by the grant is also a factor, although several one-time experiences have been funded over the years.

See the application forms for each grant category for specific criteria.