



2021-2022 INNOVATION GRANT GUIDELINES

2021/2022 INNOVATION GRANT FUNDING BUDGET

\$75,000 is budgeted for Innovation Grants. Grants must be a minimum of \$10,000 and no more than \$15,000.

GENERAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Applications are limited to MISD campuses. Campuses may submit no more than two Innovation Grant Applications.
- Programs should address a need, challenges, and concerns unique to their campus.
- Programs may be experimental but must be innovative, imaginative and originaive.
- Preference is given to new program ideas; verses repeat programs on a specific campus.
- The proposal is appropriate for submission only if the following questions can be answered in the affirmative:
 - Is the proposal congruent with the District’s Strategic Plan and Campus Improvement Plan?
 - Will the proposal improve student learning?
 - Does the application directly or indirectly affect students?
 - Can the program be completed in the timeframe allowed?
 - Are the objectives measurable?

The Education Foundation seeks to fund programs creating learning environments that:

• Provide high-impact learning emphasizing personalization, choice, and flexibility for learning.	• Are designed as prototypes to measure outcomes of proposed learning innovations.
• Acknowledge and allow for learning differentiation and/or project-based learning.	• Encourage the acquisition of 21st Century “soft skills” needed for our current and future workforce.
• Create time for student curiosity and purposeful play.	• Foster entrepreneurialism and/or sharing of student-produced work to worldwide audiences.

SUBJECT CATEGORIES & PRIORITIES: Applicants will select a subject category when completing the application. Below is a list of the categories, along with a few program priorities within each category. Program ideas are not limited to those listed here.

<u>LANGUAGE ARTS</u> Bilingual / ESL, Read-Play-Talk early childhood, literacy	<u>S.T.E.M (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics)</u> Resources to meet changing classroom needs, Robotics & Coding
<u>SOCIAL STUDIES</u> Promote civil engagement, Provide for the study of global connections & interdependence	<u>CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION</u> Expand career-integrated learning opportunities to meet needs of current industry
<u>SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL LEARNING - 5 CORE SKILLS</u> Self-Awareness, Social Awareness, Self Management, Responsible Decision Making, Relationship Skills	<u>PHYSICAL EDUCATION / HEALTH EDUCATION</u> Activities/programs/equipment to promote student wellness, nutrition, and health
<u>CULTURAL RELEVANCE</u> Removing cultural, gender and racial barriers, Social leadership development	

SUBMISSION DEADLINE & PROCEDURES

Grant Applications and Approval Forms (Facility or Technology) are due on Sunday, February 28 by midnight.

Submission Procedures: Please follow these steps to electronically submit your grant application. Applications are only accepted electronically. Applications must be approved by your Principal.

1. Create a folder in Google Drive using your FIRST and LAST NAME – CAMPUS NAME.
2. Make a copy of this application file and save it in the Google Drive folder that you created.
 - Name the file in the following format: INNOVATION GRANT – GRANT TITLE - CAMPUS NAME
 - If applicable, upload completed Technology Approval Form and/or Facility Approval Form to your folder. Name the file in this format: TECHNOLOGY OR FACILITY APPROVAL FORM – NAME OF GRANT – CAMPUS NAME
3. Once your application is final, save it in the folder you created and share the entire folder with Randy Lewallyn (hlewallyn@mesquiteisd.org). **Do not share the folder until final. Once shared, changes may not be made!**

Questions? Contact Randy Lewallyn at hlewallyn@mesquiteisd.org, extension 7513.

GRANT TIMELINE

- November 2020 Grant Guidelines and Application Released
- December 2020 Grant Writing Workshops
- February 26, 2021 Grant Application & Approval Form Deadline (by midnight)
- March 2021 District Administration Team scores grants anonymously.
- April 2021 Foundation meets to draft grant-funding recommendation.
- May 2021 Grants awarded
- May 30, 2021 Grant Evaluations due from previous year's (2020-21) grant recipients
- July 2021 Unused 2020-2021 grant funds returned to the Education Foundation
- August 1, 2021 2020-21 Grant Funds made available to grant recipients

SCORING PROCEDURE

STEP 1: Members of Dr. Vroonland's Leadership Cabinet will give each application a score of 1-10 based on the eligibility criteria. Applications will be number-coded rather than campus name to ensure scoring is done anonymously. **References to campus name are limited to the cover page. Applications that fail to follow these instructions will be penalized.**

STEP 2: Once scoring concludes, the MISD Education Foundation Programs Committee, consisting of Education Foundation Board Members, meets to review the grant applications. The Programs Committee will make a funding recommendation to the full Education Foundation Board at their April Board Meeting. Grants are funded until the budgeted amount is expended. Unused grant funds may be re-allocated to fund other Education Foundation grant categories.

ACCESS TO FUNDS: Funds for the approved projects will be available in August prior to the fall semester in which the projects are to be implemented. Grant funds are deposited into a designated account through the MISD business office. Recipients must adhere to all Mesquite ISD purchasing policies and procedures. Items purchased with grant funds become the property of the District, not the individual(s). Any unspent funds will revert to the Education Foundation at the conclusion of the school year. Grants may cover travel or honorariums. Items which will not be funded by the Mesquite ISD Education Foundation include non-school related door prizes, as well as cash, checks, gift cards, and gift certificates, as these are considered taxable income and violate IRS individual benefit restrictions. **Athletic and Fine Arts activities are not eligible to receive grant funding.**

GRANT EVALUATION: A summary evaluation of the project with expenditure receipt copies is due no later than 10 days prior to the last day of school in May. Randy Lewallyn will send the Evaluation Form to grant recipients in April, 2021.

QUESTIONS: Contact Randy Lewallyn if you have any questions: hlewallyn@mesquiteisd.org / 972.882.7513