

To: Grant Applicants

The Austin Public Schools World's Best Workforce (WBWF) invites you to submit a proposal for funding of professional learning. The Best Practice Grant process may be used for individual requests or group requests that impact the APS system. The fundamental purpose of staff development in professional practice is to improve student learning. Providing staff with individual and professional organizational growth and development opportunities prepares them to provide excellent educational experiences for students.

In Austin Public Schools, professional learning and development requests must align to the district strategic priorities:

1. Support and resources to ensure a safe and welcoming learning environment
2. Packer Profile for all learners
3. District-wide multi-tiered systems of support for all learners
4. Excellence in resource management

The process involves steps:

- ✓ Completion of the grant application and resources allocation worksheet
- ✓ Presentation of the request to the WBWF by someone knowledgeable about the proposal
Proposals not presented by an individual will not be considered.
- ✓ Review of proposal by WBWF
- ✓ If approved, presentation to WBWF of learnings and completion of the completion summary form.

The following criteria will be used to evaluate requests:

1. Proposal includes objectives which have a clear connection to the district operational plan.
2. Proposal includes opportunities for educators to improve practice.
3. Proposal includes provisions for discussion, collaborating, informing and coaching one another.
4. Proposal provides for ongoing assessment of professional practice and student performance.
5. Proposal demonstrates a clear cost/benefit relationship.

Return the grant application and resources allocation worksheet to the Office of Teaching and Learning. The application will then be placed on the WBWF agenda for presentation by the applicant or representative. The committee will then review the application and decide whether to approve the request.

Upon completion of the professional learning and development, recipients should be prepared to present a summary of the experience to the committee. Guiding questions to prepare this presentation are provided on the completion summary form.