



2023-24 LEARNING GRANT APPLICATION GUIDE

The Downingtown Community Education Foundation is a non-profit 501c3 organization that exists to promote innovation and provide supplemental education programs and opportunities for the benefit of students and families of the Downingtown Area School District.

DCEF's grants serve as incubators funding programs and ideas on a small scale to determine impact, viability and scalability for larger impact. DCEF Grants empower DASD educators to bring to life education related or curriculum related passion projects that impact learning across academic disciplines. Each year, DCEF aims to award \$25,000+ for programs or activities that fall outside the district operating budget. Grants are awarded until funds are depleted.

FUNDING PRIORITIES & ELIGIBILITY

DCEF funding priorities...

- INNOVATION- imaginative, forward looking approaches to teaching and learning
ARTS, CULTURE & HUMANITIES – programs or projects that help students, particularly the underserved or 'invisible' students feel empowered to become creative, independent, productive citizens of the world
- SERVICE LEARNING – programs or projects to help students work collaboratively, applying their school learning in thinking and acting beyond themselves for the greater good
- LIBRARY - aid in the mission of the library or improve library infrastructure. Applications should not exceed \$1,000 and are not generally funded, or anticipated to be funded, in the DASD annual budget.

DCEF accepts grant proposals from teachers, counselors, administrators and other DASD educational personnel.

DCEF funding range is \$250 to \$3,000.

FUNDING RESTRICTIONS

In order to have the largest impact possible, DCEF does not consider inquiries for:

- standard school supplies, equipment, curriculum items, field trips, teacher salaries
- replication/duplication of prior grants/concepts (see list at end of document)

CONDITIONS OF AWARD

- Grantees must fulfill the terms of the grant and can only be modified with DCEF prior approval.
- Grantee shall return to DCEF any unexpended funds.
- All supplies, equipment and materials purchased must be labeled as courtesy of a grant from DCEF.
- Grantees must submit the completed Grant Report no later than one year following receipt of funds. Grantees who do not submit the grant report will be ineligible for future grants.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

- Steps:
 1. Complete a Pre-Application Form: once your Pre-application is received DCEF will connect you with a grant liaison.
 2. Complete a full proposal – with the assistance of your Grant Liaison
Grant Liaison is a member of the Grants Committee who will help you develop a full proposal and act as the ‘go-to person’ for any questions or concerns grantees might have about their grant, its implementation, cost issues, and the development of the final report when the funded project is completed.
- Deadlines:
 1. Pre-Application form - November 15 and March 15
 2. Full Proposal – Dec 1 and April 15
- Review & Notification:
 1. Applications are reviewed by the Grants Committee and then voted on by the DCEF Board of Directors.
 2. Applicants will be notified of DCEF Board action in January and May.

PROPOSAL REVIEW & SELECTION CRITERIA – reviewers score proposals using these criteria

INNOVATION: demonstrates a new approach to teaching, enriches the existing curriculum or develops students’ ability to transfer their learning to other settings. *Answers the question: “How is this project unique, forward looking, inventive?”*

REPLICABILITY: explains how and where else in the district this would be a valuable program. *Answers the question: “How can resources, knowledge and experiences be disseminated so others can imitate or learn from what has been done”*

NEED: articulates the problem that needs to be solved and identifies evidence to document the need. *Answers the questions: “what drove you to develop this project? Why does the problem need to be addressed now?”*

GOALS & OBJECTIVES: defines broad goal of project & specific short term objectives that lead to student learning outcomes. *Answers the questions: “What are the desired outcomes? How will the project be implemented?”*

IMPACT & ASSESSMENT: uses clear and measurable outcomes to assess program impact. *Answers the questions: “How many students will benefit? How will you measure and assess student outcomes? How will you evaluate the progress or success of the project?”*

BUDGET: includes overall cost with itemized expenses, identifies funds in-hand or yet-to be raised and contingency plan if not fully funded. *Answers the question: “How will the money be spent? Is this the most cost effective approach?”*

AWARDED LEARNING GRANTS

school yr	school	project	amount
2022-23	BH, LE, BC, EW	Summer Home Visitation for Incoming Students	\$8,000
2022-23	DHS-West	Gamifying Business Education	\$1,000
2022-23	DMS	Community Garden	\$500
		Superintendent request for Leadership Training	\$5,000
2022-23	DHS-West	Outdoor Holocaust Memorial	\$500
2022-23	EW	Library Mural	\$1,000
2021-22	DMS/MC6	MOTUS-Migration Tracker	\$4,851
2020-21	MC6	Increasing Food Security	\$1,550
2020-21	BC	Growing with Grit - Outdoor Classroom	\$2,978
2020-21	PV	Mobile Book club	\$5,000
2020-21	BH	Student Led STEM Camp	\$245
2019-20	DHS-West & East; DMS & LMS	Free Reading in World Languages Classrooms	\$880
2019-20	DMS	Data Collection with iPads	\$2,373
2019-20	MC6	School Garden Compost Bin	\$212
2019-20	BH	Social & Emotional Learning	\$1,300
2019-20	WB/DHS-West	Artist in Residence Collaborative Sculpture	\$4,495
2019-20	DHS-West	Coral Reef Tank	\$4,700
2019-20	DMS	Artists chairs for Social Change	\$1,540
2018-19	10 elementary schools	60 document cameras	\$5,346
2018-19	DHS-West	Whippet WareHouse - a collaborative, reimagined school store	\$1,758
2018-19	East Ward	Osmo Genius Kits for Kdg - skills reinforcement	\$1,600
2017-18	DHS-East, West , STEM	NASA Student Launch Initiative - outreach rocket programs for younger st	\$1,000
2017-18	Marsh Creek 6th Grade Center	expand the community raised bed garden	\$1,000
2016-17	DHS-East, West , STEM	Chris Herron Project - motivational speaker for HS students & community regarding healthy lifestyle choices	\$2,500
2016-17	Shamona Creek	Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction Activities & Programs	\$1,000
2016-17	Brandywine Wallace	Increasing Engagement & Learning with OSMO	\$1,048
2016-17	Bradford Heights	Hydroponic Growing System	\$1,300
2016-17	East Ward	community playground - tech component	\$5,000
2016-17	all 10 elementary schools	Finch & Hummingbird robot kits to support new Innovation Time initiative in elementary curriculum	\$14,000
2015-16	Shamona Creek	Kdg audio amplification system - pilot program	\$1,600
2015-16	Pickering Valley	tech tubes for science	\$2,700
2015-16	DHS-East	Foam Core composite structure equipment(cutter) to supplement Aerospace Engineering course	\$5,600
2015-16	Uwchlan Hills	Circuit kits to supplement 2nd grade electricity unit	\$1,800
2015-16	Beaver Creek	Alternative desks/workstations for 1st & 5th graders - pilot program	\$4,900
2015-16	Bradford Heights	Home visit program for incoming Kdgs	\$2,200
2014-15	STEM	Reagnets & equipment for performing Biology & Chemistry extended essays pathways projects	\$1,150
2014-15	STEM	Hyperloop high speed transportation system	\$3,100
2014-15	Lionville Elementary	3D printer for 5th grades	\$2,200
2014-15	Lionville Elementary	Drone	\$300
2014-15	MC 6th Grade	ebooks to support science project based curriculum	\$250
2014-15	MC 6th Grade	Butterfly garden	\$500
2014-15	Beaver Creek	Stability balls for Kdg & special needs classrooms	\$900
2014-15	STEM	Code-a-thon	\$2,000
2014-15	LMS & DMS	Purchase of required reading materials for students unable to afford	\$600
2014-15	West Bradford	Piano keyboard and music reading for 1st & 2nd graders	\$2,150



LEARNING GRANT FINAL REPORT

Grant Name/Project: _____

Grant Amount: _____

Grant Contact: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Date you received funding: _____

Brief summary of how the grant was used:

Brief summary of outcomes achieved as a result of the grant:

Future plans for the program:

Attach a financial summary which includes a final detailed budget with sources and uses.

Attach pictures, publicity etc. from your project.

Grant recipients and their projects will be recognized on our website and in our annual Report to the Community and invited to present at a DCEF board meeting and/or our annual V.I.P. (Very Important Partners) Breakfast.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Print Name: _____

Send report to jfenn@dcedf.org