



2025-2026 INNOVATION GRANT GUIDELINES

INNOVATION GRANT FUNDING BUDGET - \$190,000

Funding for the 2025-2026 school year. Innovation Grants must be a minimum of \$10,000 and no more than \$15,000.

GENERAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Applications are limited to MISD campuses and **must be approved by the campus Principal prior to submission.**
- The amount of funds requested must be a minimum of \$10,000 and no more than \$15,000. **Requests submitted for less than \$10,000 or more than \$15,000 will not be considered.**
- Campuses are not limited to the number of Innovation Grant applications they may submit. The highest scoring programs will be funded first until all budgeted funds have been expended.
- Programs should address a need, challenges, and concerns unique to their campus.
- Programs may be experimental but should be innovative, imaginative and originative.
- Preference is given to new program ideas; versus 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 is seeking to fund programs creating learning environments that:
 - Provide high-impact learning emphasizing personalization, choice, and flexibility for student 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.

SCORING PROCESS

- STEP 1: Campus Grant applications are reviewed by a Grant Scoring Committee made up of MISD cabinet members and administrators, to ensure they meet eligibility requirements. The committee reviews each application giving them a score of 1-10. **References to campus name, individual names or mascot are limited to the cover page.**
- STEP 2: MISD's Assistant Superintendent of Partnerships and Strategic Initiatives reports the scoring committee results to the Mesquite ISD Education Foundation's Programs Committee.
- STEP 3: The Programs Committee makes a grant funding recommendation to the full Education Foundation Board for approval at the Foundation's 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.
 - *Priority may be given to programs that are sustainable beyond the year of funding.*
 - *Priority may be given to programs that impact a larger number of students, classrooms and grade levels.*
 - *Repeat programs may not be considered after being funded for two consecutive years on a campus.*

RESTRICTIONS - Applications for the following will not be considered for funding:

- Fine-Arts or Athletics
- Off-site staff training

- Non-school related door prizes, cash, checks, gift cards and gift certificates, as these are considered taxable income and violate IRS individual benefit restrictions.
- Programs that modify facilities and/or structures on campus must be approved by Construction Services prior to submission. Cost for proposed changes must be provided in the budget section of the application.
- Programs requiring new technology or software must be approved by Instructional Technology prior to submission. Accurate costs must be included in the budget section of the application.

SUBJECT CATEGORIES & PRIORITIES: Applicants will select a subject category when completing the application from the options below. Program ideas are not limited to those listed here.

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|---|---|
| <u>LANGUAGE ARTS</u> Bilingual / ESL, Read-Play-Talk early childhood, literacy | <u>S.T.E.M (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics)</u> Resources meeting 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>COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS</u> Activities, programs, initiatives to promote college and career preparedness, as well as college matriculation & persistence. | <u>CULTURAL RELEVANCE</u> Removing cultural, gender and racial barriers, social leadership development |

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Innovation Grant Applications are due on **March 31, 2025** by midnight.

SUBMISSION PROCEDURES: Applications are only accepted electronically.

Step 1: Create a folder in Google Drive using your **FIRST and LAST NAME – CAMPUS NAME - GRANT TITLE**

Step 2: Make a copy of the application file and save it in the Google Drive folder that you've created.

- Name the file in the following format: **CAMPUS NAME - GRANT TITLE**

Step 3: Once your application is final, save it in the folder you've created and share the entire folder with [hlewalllyn@mesquiteisd.org](mailto:hlewallyn@mesquiteisd.org). **Do not share the folder until final. Once shared, changes may not be made!**

GRANT TIMELINE

- March 31, 2025 Grant Application Deadline (by midnight).
- April 2025 District scoring committee scores grants anonymously.
Foundation's Programs Committee meets to draft grant-funding recommendation.
- May 2025 Grants awarded.
- August 1, 2025 Grant Funds made available to grant recipients through the MISD business office.
- May 30, 2026 Grant Evaluations due.
- July 1, 2026 Unused grant funds returned to the Education Foundation.

ACCESS TO FUNDS: Funds for 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.

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. The Education Foundation will send the Evaluation Form to grant recipients in May 2026.

QUESTIONS: Contact Randy Lewallyn if you have any questions: [hlewalllyn@mesquiteisd.org](mailto:hlewallyn@mesquiteisd.org) / 972.882.7513

2025-2026 Mesquite ISD Education Foundation Innovation & Campus Grant Desired Outcomes & Rubric

Innovation Grant Desired Outcomes: The Education Foundation seeks to fund programs creating learning environments that:

- Provide high-impact learning emphasizing personalization, choice, and flexibility for student 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.

| CRITERIA | 8-10 points | 6-7 points | 4-5 points | 1-3 points |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| Summary of Grant Request <i>What do you plan to do with the funds?</i> (Max 10 points) | Summary of request is clearly explained. Has potential to significantly impact student learning. | Summary of request is explained to some extent. Has potential to somewhat impact student learning. | Summary of request is not clearly explained. Potential to impact student learning is not supported. | Summary of request is not explained. Potential to impact student learning is not addressed. |
| Rationale <i>How will this project meet a campus need and how will it improve student learning?</i> (Max 10 points) | Project has extreme potential to meet a stated campus need and improve student learning. Rationale is completely aligned with District core values. | Project has potential to meet a stated campus need and improve student learning. Rationale is aligned with District core values. | Somewhat unsure of the project's potential to meet a stated campus need and improve student learning. Rationale is somewhat aligned with District core values. | Inconclusive or not enough research is presented to meet a stated campus need or improve student learning. Rationale not aligned with District core values |
| Desired Outcomes <i>What objectives and measurable outcomes do you hope to accomplish through this program?</i> (Max 10 points) | Desired student learning outcomes are defined, measurable, obtainable, and address a stated need. | Desired student learning outcomes are somewhat defined, measurable, obtainable, and address a stated need. | Desired student learning outcomes are not clearly defined, measurable, obtainable, and address a stated need. | Desired student learning outcomes are not addressed. |
| Activities & Implementation Plan <i>List activities that will be utilized to implement the program and achieve objectives. Use bullets or numbers when listing.</i> (Max 10 points) | The project's implementation plan is research-based and instructionally sound. The project supports specific standards and benchmarks, which are clearly identified. | The project's methods are instructionally sound. The project supports specific standards and benchmarks, which are clearly identified. | The project's methods are identified. Standards and benchmarks supported by the project are not clearly identified. | Project's methods are not identified. No standards are cited. |
| Evaluation <i>How will you determine the success or failure of this program?</i> (Max 10 points) | Multiple appropriate methods for evaluating desired student learning outcomes are included. | Methods for evaluating desired student learning outcomes of the project are included. | References to evaluating desired student learning outcomes of the project are not specific. | Evaluation of desired student learning outcomes is not addressed. |