



**WACO ISD EDUCATION FOUNDATION
COVER SHEET – PART II
Application for Grant:
2025-2026 Funding Cycle**

Assigned Grant Proposal #: 57

Project Title: The Ripple Effect: Making Waves for Clean Water Grant

Grade Level(s): 6th, 7th, & 8th # of Students DIRECTLY involved: 1,000

Subject Area(s): Science

Amount Requested: \$ 3,500

Grant Focus Area(s): In order to be considered, Waco Education Foundation Innovation Grant proposals must fall under one or more of the E4 focus areas: early childhood development, enhanced programming for advanced students, extended education for staff, and emphasis on student performance. NOTE: In addition to meeting one of the E4 focus areas above, grant readers are especially interested in creative and innovative grant requests that target fine arts, STEM, literacy, or enrichment.

(check all that apply)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Early Childhood Development | <input type="checkbox"/> Extended Education for Staff |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enhanced Programming for Advanced Students | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Emphasis on Student Performance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fine Arts | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STEM |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Literacy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enrichment |

The Ripple Effect: Making Waves for Clean Water Grant

Project Description

The EnviroScape® environmental education models engage students in hands-on learning about water pollution and prevention. Through interactive activities, the goal is to increase awareness, promote critical thinking, and empower action among students, fostering a sense of shared responsibility for environmental conservation. By integrating the EnviroScape® model into curriculum activities, I seek to achieve measurable outcomes in students' understanding and behavior regarding water pollution prevention, ultimately cultivating a generation of informed and proactive environmental stewards.

Currently, I borrow the EnviroScape® environmental education model annually from the local Wetlands in Waco to provide students with a hands-on, interactive experience. While this partnership has been invaluable, owning a dedicated model for our classroom would allow for expanded use throughout the year, integrating more in-depth lessons and follow-up activities. This would ensure every student has multiple opportunities to engage with and apply concepts related to pollution and its prevention. With a permanent EnviroScape® environmental education model, the program could grow to become a cornerstone of our environmental science curriculum, equipping students with the knowledge and skills to make a tangible difference in their communities.



Rationale

The EnviroScape® environmental education model offers a dynamic and interactive approach to teaching students about water pollution and prevention, perfectly aligning with the funding priorities of the Waco Education Foundation. By integrating this hands-on tool into classroom activities, teachers can enhance creativity and innovation in their instructional methods, fostering critical thinking and problem-solving skills among students. The unique, experiential nature of the EnviroScape® environmental education model inspires engagement, encouraging students to explore environmental concepts in meaningful and impactful ways.

Creative Classroom Project: Incorporating the EnviroScape® environmental education model allows educators to introduce environmental education in an engaging and stimulating format. The hands-on activities encourage students to analyze

real-world scenarios, design solutions, and collaborate effectively, making learning both fun and practical.

Rewards for Results: Utilizing the EnviroScape® environmental education model in classrooms has the potential to yield measurable outcomes in increased environmental awareness and understanding. The program aligns with the Foundation's mission by fostering informed perspectives on water pollution prevention and promoting actionable environmental stewardship among students.

District Initiative: This grant directly supports District and Campus Improvement Plans by addressing key objectives in environmental education and sustainability. Through the integration of the EnviroScape® environmental education model, schools can strengthen initiatives that promote responsible citizenship and environmental stewardship while meeting broader educational goals.

Need and Importance: With growing concerns about environmental challenges, including water pollution, there is a critical need to equip students with the tools to address these issues effectively. While our school has benefited from borrowing an EnviroScape® environmental education model annually from the local Wetlands in Waco, having a dedicated model would allow for more frequent and comprehensive use. The EnviroScape® environmental education model provides a proven and effective means to empower students with the knowledge and skills necessary to become proactive and informed environmental advocates.

Additionally, access to engaging educational materials on environmental topics remains limited for our school and district. Support from the Waco Education Foundation would enable us to overcome these barriers, implementing a high-quality program that enhances student learning and benefits the broader community.

In summary, integrating the EnviroScape® environmental education model into our science curriculum aligns with the Waco Education Foundation's funding focus and supports district-wide initiatives. This grant addresses the pressing need for enhanced environmental education while offering innovative opportunities for student engagement, creativity, and collaboration.

Goals

The implementation of the EnviroScape® environmental education model is designed to transform how students understand and approach the critical issue of water pollution and prevention. This project's goals are not only ambitious but also aligned with fostering meaningful educational outcomes and real-world impact:

1. **Increase Awareness:** Through the hands-on and visually engaging EnviroScape® environmental education model, students will gain a profound understanding of the sources and consequences of water pollution. By simulating real-world scenarios, they will see firsthand how human actions affect ecosystems, fostering a sense of personal connection to environmental health.

2. **Promote Critical Thinking:** The interactive activities and guided discussions will challenge students to think deeply about the causes and effects of pollution. They will analyze problems, evaluate solutions, and develop problem-solving skills that are essential for tackling environmental challenges.
3. **Empower Action:** By equipping students with knowledge and practical strategies for water pollution prevention, this project inspires them to become proactive environmental advocates. Whether through community cleanup efforts or everyday sustainable practices, students will feel empowered to make a difference.
4. **Achieve Measurable Outcomes:** To demonstrate the impact of this program, measurable increases in knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors will be tracked through pre- and post-assessments. Tangible results, such as heightened participation in environmental activities, will serve as evidence of the program's success.
5. **Integrate into Curriculum:** This project seeks to seamlessly embed environmental education into the existing curriculum, ensuring long-term engagement and sustained impact. By making these lessons an integral part of students' academic journey, we can cultivate environmental literacy that extends well beyond the classroom.

These goals underscore a commitment to creating a generation of informed, critical thinkers who are not only aware of environmental issues but are also motivated to act. The EnviroScape® environmental education model provides an innovative platform to inspire curiosity, build knowledge, and foster responsible citizenship, perfectly aligning with the mission of this grant.

Plan of Operation

The EnviroScape® environmental education models will provide students a dynamic and interactive way to learn about water pollution and prevention. Through hands-on classroom activities, guided discussions, and collaborative projects, students will better understand pollution sources, their impacts, and prevention strategies. This initiative aims to raise awareness, enhance critical thinking, inspire action, and integrate environmental education into the core curriculum.

Activities:

- Introduce the EnviroScape® environmental education model and foundational concepts about water pollution.
- Conduct hands-on simulations to visualize pollution scenarios and their effects on water resources.
- Facilitate guided discussions on pollution prevention strategies, emphasizing shared responsibility.
- Support student-led projects focused on water conservation and pollution prevention initiatives.

- Seamlessly integrate environmental education lessons into science and other curriculum subjects.

Objectives:

- Increase student awareness of water pollution sources and their environmental impacts.
- Cultivate critical thinking by engaging students in analyzing and addressing real-world environmental challenges.
- Empower students to take meaningful actions in their communities to prevent water pollution.
- Incorporate environmental education into various curriculum areas for a lasting educational impact.
- Achieve measurable outcomes in student knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors related to water conservation.

Strategies:

- Utilize the EnviroScape® models as interactive learning tools to visually demonstrate environmental concepts.
- Facilitate engaging discussions, group activities, and hands-on experiments to reinforce learning.
- Collaborate with teachers to integrate environmental topics into existing curriculum frameworks.
- Measure program success through pre- and post-assessments, student observations, and project evaluations.

School-Community Partnerships:

- Partner with local environmental organizations and experts, such as Nora Scheel from the Waco Wetlands, to provide guest speakers, resources, and field trip opportunities.
- Collaborate with local municipalities to highlight real-world water management and conservation efforts.

Timeline/Calendar:

- Procure EnviroScape® models and related resources.
- Train teachers on how to utilize the EnviroScape® models.
- Introduce EnviroScape® concepts and hands-on learning activities.
- Facilitate simulations, discussions, and student-led projects to consolidate learning.

Parental and Community Involvement:

- **Volunteer Opportunities:** Involve parents and community members in classroom activities, field trips, and student projects to create a shared learning experience.
- **Collaboration with Local Organizations:** Engage community partners to support and enhance the project through resources, expertise, and involvement in activities.

By integrating hands-on environmental education with active community participation, this initiative will foster a collaborative approach to addressing water pollution. The EnviroScape® grant initiative empowers students and the community to work together toward sustainable environmental practices and long-term conservation efforts.

Communication & Dissemination

Involvement of the Waco Education Foundation:

- **Invitation to Observe in Action:** Members of the Waco Education Foundation will be warmly invited to witness the EnviroScape® environmental education model in action. Observations will include classroom activities, student presentations, and interactive experiments using the EnviroScape® models. Seeing these firsthand will highlight the innovative and impactful use of grant funds in advancing environmental education.
- **Photo Opportunities for Impact:** Social media will feature regular photo updates of student engagement, allowing us to showcase the grant's success and provide valuable recognition for the supporters.

Dissemination Plans:

- **Staff Development Workshops:** Insights and results from the EnviroScape® environmental education model will be shared during staff development workshops. These sessions will showcase effective strategies, lessons learned, and best practices for incorporating environmental education into the curriculum. The goal is to inspire educators to replicate or adapt these approaches in their classrooms.
- **WISD-TV Collaboration:** Partnering with WISD-TV, the district's television channel, we will produce a feature segment highlighting the EnviroScape® initiative. This broadcast will extend the project's visibility to students, parents, educators, and the community, emphasizing the importance of environmental stewardship and the Foundation's pivotal role in supporting this effort.

By integrating the Foundation into the EnviroScape® environmental education model and employing robust dissemination strategies, I aim to ensure the program's impact is maximized and its results are effectively communicated. These efforts will celebrate the Foundation's support, inspire wider adoption of environmental education, and solidify the lasting value of the EnviroScape® environmental education model for our district.

Evaluation

The success and impact of the proposed EnviroScape® environmental education model will be assessed through a comprehensive evaluation process designed to measure student learning, engagement, and behavioral changes related to water pollution and prevention. By employing both qualitative and quantitative methods, this evaluation plan will provide a well-rounded understanding of the program's effectiveness.

Key Evaluation Components

1. Pre- and Post-Assessments:

- Students will complete pre-and post-assessments to measure changes in their knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors about water pollution and prevention.
- Assessments will include multiple-choice questions, open-ended prompts, and scenario-based tasks to evaluate comprehension, critical thinking, and application of concepts.

2. Observations and Documentation:

- Facilitators will conduct ongoing observations during classroom activities, documenting student participation, engagement, and interactions with the EnviroScape® environmental education model.
- Photographs, videos, and written records will capture the implementation process, showcasing the program's dynamic learning environment.

3. Student Projects and Presentations:

- Students will create individual or group projects focused on water conservation and pollution prevention, assessed for creativity, relevance, and alignment with program objectives.

4. Feedback Surveys:

- Surveys will be administered to students and teachers to gather feedback on their experiences with the EnviroScape® environmental education model.
- Questions will focus on satisfaction levels, perceived learning outcomes, and suggestions for improvement, ensuring the program remains responsive to stakeholders' needs.

5. Long-Term Impact Assessment:

- Follow-up assessments will evaluate the lasting impact of the EnviroScape® environmental education model for students, including sustained behavior changes, participation in environmental initiatives, and advocacy for pollution prevention within their communities.

Why This Matters

By incorporating diverse evaluation methods and gathering input from a broad range of stakeholders, this comprehensive plan will effectively measure the success of the EnviroScape® environmental education model. The insights gained will not only validate its goals of increasing awareness, promoting critical thinking, and empowering students

to take action but also inform future enhancements, ensuring the program's lasting impact on students and the broader community.

This results-driven approach underscores the transformative potential of the EnviroScape® environmental education model and positions it as a valuable model for environmental education initiatives.

Long-Term Implications

To ensure the sustainability and lasting impact of the EnviroScape® environmental education model beyond the 2025-2026 school year, I have developed a comprehensive plan that focuses on embedding environmental education into the district's foundation and empowering educators for long-term success.

Integration into Curriculum

I will collaborate with curriculum coordinators and educators to seamlessly incorporate environmental education, including the use of EnviroScape® environmental education model, into the school's curriculum. By aligning this initiative with core subjects such as science, social studies, and language arts, I aim to:

- Institutionalize environmental literacy as an integral part of students' education.
- Promote interdisciplinary learning that connects ecological concepts with broader social and scientific themes.
- Ensure that environmental stewardship becomes a consistent and impactful element of the educational experience.

Professional Development

I will provide ongoing professional development opportunities to equip educators with the tools and confidence to deliver meaningful environmental education. These opportunities will include:

- **Workshops and Training Sessions:** Focused on utilizing the EnviroScape® models effectively, implementing hands-on and inquiry-based activities, and integrating environmental topics into lesson plans.
- **Peer Mentoring Programs:** Encouraging collaboration among educators to share best practices, innovative strategies, and success stories.
- **Real-World Applications:** Training teachers to connect classroom lessons with real-world environmental challenges, fostering relevance and engagement for students.

By embedding environmental education into the curriculum and investing in teacher development, **the EnviroScape® environmental education model will create a ripple effect that extends far beyond the immediate classroom, shaping environmentally conscious students who are prepared to tackle the challenges of tomorrow.**

This strategic approach ensures the long-term sustainability of the program, maximizes its reach, and reinforces the Foundation's commitment to fostering meaningful and enduring change in environmental education.

Key Personnel

Lead Teachers and Responsibilities

The lead teachers play a pivotal role in the successful implementation of the EnviroScape® grant initiative. Their responsibilities include:

- **Curriculum Integration:** Seamlessly embedding the EnviroScape® environmental education model into engaging curriculum activities to foster student understanding of environmental concepts.
- **Classroom Facilitation:** Leading interactive lessons, activities, and discussions that encourage critical thinking and problem-solving.
- **Student Guidance:** Providing mentorship and support as students create and present projects related to the EnviroScape® environmental education model.
- **Collaborative Efforts:** Work closely with the project coordinator and fellow teachers to ensure alignment and consistency across classrooms.
- **Assessment:** Evaluating student learning outcomes and providing feedback to measure the program's impact and effectiveness.

Community Partnerships Coordinator and Responsibilities

The Community Partnerships Coordinator is instrumental in building and maintaining relationships with external stakeholders to enhance the program. Their responsibilities include:

- **Partnership Development:** Establishing and nurturing connections with local environmental organizations, businesses, and government agencies to strengthen resources and support.
- **Event Coordination:** Organizing guest speakers, field trips, and access to materials that enrich student learning experiences and broaden their understanding of real-world environmental issues.

Collaborative Expertise

This team of dedicated professionals brings a wealth of experience and specialized skills to the EnviroScape® environmental education model. Their combined efforts ensure:

- Effective integration of hands-on, inquiry-based learning experiences into the curriculum.
- Meaningful engagement with community partners to provide students with authentic, real-world applications of environmental education.

- Rigorous assessment and continuous improvement of the program to maximize its impact on students and the broader community.

By assembling a team of passionate educators and skilled coordinators, the EnviroScape® environmental education model is positioned to deliver transformative learning experiences that inspire environmental stewardship and community engagement.

Budget and Budget Narrative/Justification

Personnel

- **Project Coordinator:** Responsible for overseeing the entirety of the EnviroScape® environmental education model. The Project Coordinator will manage coordination, communication, and evaluation to ensure the project's smooth execution and effectiveness.
- **Lead Teachers:** These educators will play a critical role in seamlessly integrating the EnviroScape® environmental education model into the curriculum, facilitating engaging lessons, and providing ongoing support for student projects. Their involvement is key to the project's success.
- **Community Partnerships Coordinator:** This lead teacher will focus on building and maintaining partnerships with local organizations, businesses, and government agencies to enhance EnviroScape® environmental education model activities and expand available resources.

Supplies and Materials

- **EnviroScape® Environmental Education model:** These hands-on tools are essential for teaching water pollution and prevention. The purchase of multiple models will ensure that students across various grade levels can interact with and benefit from the real-world applications these models offer.
- **Classroom Materials:** A variety of additional supplies, such as art materials, educational resources, and consumables, will support the creation of student projects and enhance EnviroScape® activities. These materials are vital for fostering creativity and reinforcing environmental concepts.

Summary

The proposed budget outlines all necessary expenses to ensure the successful implementation of the EnviroScape® environmental education model, including funding for personnel, supplies, and materials. This allows the grant funds to be focused on the core resources needed for a transformative educational experience. This careful budgeting ensures the long-term sustainability and impact of the EnviroScape® grant initiative.

Grant Budget Form

Assigned Proposal #	57
Project Title:	The Ripple Effect: Making Waves for Clean Water Grant
Number of Students Served by Grant:	1,000

Qty	Budget Item	Verify Vendor (Y or N)	\$ Requested from the WISD Foundation	Other Secured Source	\$ from Other Source (if applicable)	Total Amount
Consumable Supplies						
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
total Consumable Supplies			\$ -		\$ -	\$ -
Technology						
						\$ -
						\$ -
total Technology			\$ -		\$ -	\$ -
Long-Term Supplies / Equipment (items that will last beyond the grant year)						
1	Watershed/Nonpoint Source Model	Y	\$ 2,200.00			\$ 2,200.00
1	Misc Model supplies	Y	\$ 500.00			\$ 500.00
1	Carriing Case	y	\$ 800.00			\$ 800.00
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
total Long-Term Supplies			\$ 3,500.00		\$ -	\$ 3,500.00

Contracted Services						
						\$ -
						\$ -
total Contracted Services			\$ -		\$ -	\$ -
Personnel						
						\$ -
						\$ -
total Personnel			\$ -		\$ -	\$ -
Travel / Other						
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
total Other			\$ -		\$ -	\$ -
Totals		Total Requested from the WISD Foundation		Foundation Cost Per Student	Total from Other Sources	Total Cost of Project
		\$ 3,500.00		3.5	\$ -	\$ 3,500.00