



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

Assigned Grant Proposal #: 56

Project Title: Who's Going Gaga for Health

Grade Level(s): PreK-5th # of Students DIRECTLY involved: 400

Subject Area(s): Physical Education

Amount Requested: \$ 4,080.00

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



Who's Going Gaga for Health

Project Description:

Our campus is always seeking new ways to engage students in outdoor, organized physical activities. GaGa Ball is a fast-paced, high-energy game played in an octagonal pit, offering a fun and inclusive alternative to traditional dodgeball. Using a soft foam ball, the game encourages dodging, striking, running, and jumping—providing an enjoyable yet effective workout for all participants. By promoting active play, this initiative supports healthier lifestyles among students. Grant funds will be used to locally purchase materials such as wood, brackets, and mulch. Assembly of the GaGa Pit will be a collaborative effort involving staff, parents, and community volunteers, fostering a spirit of teamwork and engagement beyond the classroom.

1. Rationale

In education, we find that healthier, happier students tend to perform better academically. They are more attentive and retain information more effectively. Adding a GaGa Ball pit to our campus will provide students with an engaging way to sharpen critical thinking skills, develop social skills, and improve their overall health. The game enhances physical abilities such as hand-eye coordination, reaction speed, jumping, and dexterity—skills that also translate into other sports like soccer, football, and basketball.

A key benefit of GaGa Ball is that everyone stays engaged. Eliminated players can quickly rejoin, keeping the game dynamic and inclusive. Its accessibility makes it particularly beneficial for social development, allowing children of all athletic abilities to participate with confidence. Additionally, GaGa Ball helps bridge physical ability gaps, promoting equal opportunities among boys and girls, students with disabilities or special needs, and those with social or emotional challenges.

A GaGa Ball pit is needed at our school to provide students with a fun, engaging, and inclusive way to stay active. Regular physical activity is essential for students' health and well-being, and GaGa Ball encourages movement through a game that improves hand-eye coordination, agility, reaction speed, and overall fitness.

Additionally, GaGa Ball promotes social development by fostering teamwork, sportsmanship, and confidence, especially for students who may not typically participate in traditional sports. Its inclusive nature ensures that children of all skill levels, including those with disabilities or social challenges, can actively engage and feel a sense of belonging. Gaga ball has a unique way of bringing children of all abilities together,

including those who face specific challenges. It also encourages every player to cultivate a resilient, stick-with-it mindset.

By adding a GaGa Ball pit, our school can further promote physical activity, enhance student interactions, and contribute to a healthier, more connected school community.

2. Goals

Our goal is to see all students actively participating and enjoying Gaga Ball, whether during recess, physical education class, or as a fun stress reliever. We aim to create an inclusive and engaging environment where every student, regardless of skill level or ability, can have a great time. By promoting teamwork, physical activity, and friendly competition, we hope to make Gaga Ball a positive and enjoyable experience that encourages movement, social interaction, and resilience.

When organizing a Gaga Ball activity, the primary goal is to create an inclusive, engaging, and physically active experience for all participants. The expectations include:

1. **Encouraging Inclusivity** – Ensuring that players of all skill levels and abilities feel welcome and can actively participate. Modifications can be made if needed to accommodate different abilities.
2. **Developing Physical Skills** – Helping players improve coordination, agility, reflexes, and overall fitness through active movement in the game.
3. **Enhancing Social Interaction** – Teaching players to communicate, collaborate, and practice good sportsmanship by respecting rules, negotiating roles, and interacting positively with peers.
4. **Building Resilience and Strategy** – Encouraging players to develop perseverance, quick decision-making, and adaptability as they navigate the game's challenges.
5. **Providing a Fun and Safe Environment** – Ensuring that the game remains enjoyable, engaging, and safe by enforcing fair play, following the rules, and maintaining a positive atmosphere.

By setting these clear objectives, the Gaga Ball experience becomes not just a game but an opportunity for growth, learning, and enjoyment for all participants.

Gaga Ball also aligns with many physical education standards in elementary school and helps develop various sports-related skills. It is an engaging and challenging activity suitable for all ages. The excitement and laughter it brings can also serve as a valuable stress reliever. This game helps build skills including, but not limited to:

Builds teamwork - *TEKS K.6B*: Demonstrate the ability to play within boundaries during games and activities. *K.5B*: Know and apply safety practices associated with physical activity such as not pushing in line and drinking water during activity. *4.7D*: Demonstrate effective communication, consideration and respect for the feelings of others during physical activities such as encourage others, allow others equal turns, and invite others to participate.

- **Improves hand-eye coordination** - *TEKS 4.1K*: Demonstrate key elements in manipulative skills such as volleying, hand dribble, foot dribble, punt, striking with body part, racquet, or bat.

- **Improves flexibility** - *TEKS 4.3D*: Improve flexibility in shoulders, trunk, and legs. *4.4C*: Identify methods for measuring cardiovascular endurance, muscular strength and endurance, and flexibility.

- **Develops fast reflexes** - *TEKS 4.2B*: Identify ways movement concepts such as time, space, effort, and relationships can be used to refine movement skills.

- **Increases agility and balance** - *TEKS 4.1A*: Demonstrate changes in speed during straight, curved, and zig zag pathways in dynamic situations. *4.1E*: Perform sequences that include traveling, showing good body control combined with stationary balances on various body parts.

- **Improves strength training** - *TEKS K.3D*: Lift and support his/her own weight in selected activities that develop muscular strength and endurance of the arms, shoulders, abdomen, back, and legs such as hanging, hopping, and jumping.

- **Promotes weight loss** - *TEKS 4.4E*: Describe the relationship between food intake and physical activity such as calories consumed and calories expended. *4.4F*: Explain the link between physical activity/inactivity and health such as reduce stress and burn calories.

- **Promote anaerobic exercise** - *TEKS K.3B*: Participate in moderate to vigorous physical activities on a daily basis that cause increased heart rate, breathing rate, and perspiration.

- **Stress reliever** - *TEKS 4.4G*: Explain the relationship between physical activity and stress relief and demonstrate stress relief activities such as brisk walking, gentle stretching, and muscle tension and release.

3. Plan of Operation

The General Education and Physical Education teachers will begin coordinating the purchase of equipment and materials for the Gaga Pit over the summer. District maintenance staff will be contacted to schedule and prepare the designated location for installation. The goal is to complete the setup during the summer; if not, it will be installed in early fall. Once in place, Gaga Ball will become a regular feature of the campus playground and a key activity in Parent Involvement events. It will also be incorporated into campus Field Day activities.

Activities / Strategies:

- Reinforce skills through peer learning
- Incorporate Gaga Ball into Parent Involvement activities
- Promotes social behaviors
- Apply skills taught throughout; allow diverse student populations to re-engage and experience success without relying on skills
- Encourage lifelong physical activity

Timeline/Calendar:

June – September - Submit purchase order for all budgeted items.

August – October – Contact Maintenance and Facilities departments to plan and schedule site preparations, construction assistance where needed, etc. Contact school partner volunteers, parents, and staff to assist in construction and setup.

October - November – Plan and implement lessons to teach the game of Gaga Ball, its rules of play, and safety to new students. Provide refresher lessons for those students who know about the game.

December - May - Students will engage in Gaga Ball games during P.E. classes, recess, Field Day, and other Parent Involvement outdoor game-oriented activities.



4. Communication & Dissemination

Community members and stakeholders will be invited to a groundbreaking event to kick off the preparation and setup of our Gaga Ball Pit, as well as a special “opening day” celebration for its first official use. We also hope to be featured in a **Foundation Focus** interview, showcased on the Waco Education Foundation website and aired on WISD-TV. Additionally, photos will be shared with the Education Foundation for their use. Parents and community members will be encouraged to participate in our Parent Involvement activities, including a Parent Night featuring outdoor games and our end-of-year Field Day.

5. Evaluation

As educators, we are committed to integrating activities that support both the academic and social growth of our students. Gaga Ball naturally enhances social interaction by encouraging quick decision-making, spatial awareness, and strategic movement. It fosters positive social behaviors by involving players of varying athletic abilities, promoting self-refereeing, encouraging peer-to-peer interactions, and reinforcing the importance of safe and fair play.

Students learn to engage with their peers respectfully, practice good sportsmanship, and build confidence in their physical abilities. The game also provides an outlet for releasing excess energy, helping students remain more focused and attentive in the classroom. This increased engagement has been shown to improve both academic participation and classroom behavior. Additionally, through our campus “check-in/check-out” program, we will track student behavior and academic progress to assess the impact of Gaga Ball on overall student success.

6. Long Term Implications

Gaga Ball has become one of the most popular games played in elementary schools, evolving into a competitive activity with a growing number of enthusiastic participants. This game helps students develop essential motor skills and movement patterns, ranging from basic running and striking to more advanced locomotor and manipulative skills such as jumping, balancing, dribbling, and striking a ball in a fast-paced environment.

Gaga Ball is an excellent addition to elementary education, aligning with the Texas Physical Education Standards. It supports key learning objectives, such as demonstrating awareness of personal and general space while moving in various directions and levels (high, medium, and low). As players refine their movements, they also develop performance strategies and tactical skills for both offensive and defensive play.

Beyond its physical benefits, Gaga Ball brings the joy of play to childhood while promoting overall health and fitness, making it a valuable and engaging activity for students.

7. Key Personnel

Personnel	Responsibilities
Principal	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• budgeting issues• misc. administration responsibilities related to campus construction
General education and P.E teacher	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• submit purchase orders for equipment and materials• contact district maintenance department and coordinate preparation of area for the Gaga Pit• coordinate installation and setup of the Gaga Pit• teach student body the rules and how to play the game

8. Budget and Budget Narrative/Justification:

Budget: Please see attached sheet.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Gaga Ball Pit	\$ 2,550.00
Gaga Ball Pit Liner	\$ 550.00
Rubber Mulch	\$ 850.00
Lockable Storage Container	\$ 80.00
Balls	\$ 50.00
TOTAL	\$ 4,080.00

The game of Gaga Ball takes only a few minutes to learn and doesn't require the mastery of specific skills as is the case in traditional sports such as basketball, baseball, etc., so it creates a level playing field for children of all athletic abilities, including boys and girls in co-ed sports as well as kids with attention deficit disorders, social skills challenges, and others who haven't participated in traditional sports. Because the game of Gaga Ball has so much unpredictable action, it gives the non-traditional athlete an equal chance of winning. This does absolute wonders for their self-esteem even the very first time they play. We actually witnessed children who were at first very reluctant to try Gaga Ball become the most eager players as they realize that they can play this inclusive game as well as anyone.

Waco Education Foundation				Assigned Proposal #		56	
Grant Budget Form				Project Title:		Who's Going Gaga for Health	
				Number of Students Served by Grant:		400	
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	Gaga Pit Ball game Inground Mounting	Y	\$ 3,500.00			\$	2,550.00
1	Waterproof Outdoor Lockable Storage	Y				\$	80.00
1	Gaga Balls	Y				\$	50.00
1	Gaga Ball Pit Liner					\$	550.00
1	Rubber Mulch					\$	850.00
						\$	-
total Long-Term Supplies			\$ 3,500.00		\$ -	\$	4,080.00
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		\$8.75	\$ -	\$ 4,080.00

