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

Assigned Grant Proposal #: _____

Project Title: _____

Grade Level(s): _____ **# of Students DIRECTLY involved:** _____

Subject Area(s): _____

Amount Requested: $ _____

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)

Early Childhood Development   Extended Education for Staff
Enhanced Programming for Advanced Students   Emphasis on Student Performance
Fine Arts   STEM
Literacy   Enrichment

Assigned Project #22
A More Perfect Union: Project-Based Politics

Project Description:

Creative classroom projects: Senior government classes on our campus are now fully project-based– both in regular government and AP.. In these classes, we "learn by doing"-- solving real-world government problems through teamwork: researching, planning, building, presenting, and simulating. If awarded, the $1,500 for this project will contribute to the further implementation of project-based learning in the 2025-2026 school year.

While the project-based approach was initially only applied in AP Government classes, we quickly saw the value in the approach with our non-AP classes. Both classes follow the same project cycles, with more rigor in the AP setting.

1. **Rationale**

This project corresponds with the Waco Education Foundation's aims in the following funding focus areas:
   - Enhanced programming for advanced students
   - Emphasis on student performance

The materials obtained will be used to improve learning for advanced *and* on-level students and overall student performance.

This project supports our school's Campus Improvement Plan for Goal 2 (Increase student achievement and active academic engagement by implementing rigorous tier-one instruction).

2. **Goals**

Research proves that the "hands-on" approach of project-based learning deepens student engagement and critical thinking. When students apply their knowledge in real world scenarios, they retain information more effectively. If we are awarded this grant, items purchased will help in the following ways:

   - ☐ A PA system and podcasting equipment will enable students to create and present multimedia projects
   - ☐ Costumes and consumable items will bring historical simulations to life

3. **Plan of Operation**

The course is divided into 6 project cycles, each involving one or more simulated political processes. Multiple tasks compose each project cycle. The projects and tasks revisit key concepts (e.g., federalism, separation of powers, linkage institutions) so that students will have multiple opportunities to apply the concepts and "try out" their knowledge in different scenarios. Political discourse is an ongoing element of the course. Each project cycle ends with a "public project", during which various campus and community members are invited to attend and participate in. The course breakdown is as follows:

- 1– the Constitutional Convention/Commission
  - Activities: researching foundational principles & thinkers, dissecting the Constitution, public letter drafting, convention simulation, modern issues podcast
  - Items requested: costume items, podcasting equipment
- 2– Mock Congress
  - Activities: pollster role playing, legislation drafting, legislative committee simulation (House of Representatives), letter to constituents
  - Items requested: PA system
- 3– the Presidential Election
  - Activities: role research (candidate, campaign manager, interest group leader, media member), Washington insider meet and greet/stump speeches, primary debates and elections, presidential debate, campaign ads and endorsements, mock Election Night coverage
  - Items requested: podiums, PA system, podcasting equipment, consumable items (sparkling waters, finger foods, etc.)
- 4– the Presidential Cabinet simulation
  - Activities: Presidential cabinet research, presidential crisis scenario, press conference simulation, Oval Office address simulation
  - Items requested: podiums, PA system, podcasting equipment
- 5– Judicial Branch simulation
  - Activities: court case prep, mock oral arguments
  - Items requested: costumes (robes)
- 6– Government in Action (new for 25-26 school year)
  - Activities: current issue research, federalism project
  - Items requested: podcasting equipment

4. Communication & Dissemination

Possible ways to inform and include the Foundation:
- Project public performance invites
- Scheduling photo opportunities during the public products
- Willingness to share at district meetings (presentation or professional development)

5. Evaluation

We are continuously evaluating student achievement data throughout the year. Student engagement data will also be frequently analyzed. This data piece is a part of all campus walkthroughs. We can use the data to refine aspects of the project cycles each semester.

6. Long Term Implications

At this time, we do not foresee needing to apply for a similar grant again in the future, assuming our grant is chosen for funding. The items requested– aside from the consumable items associated with the "meet and greet" activity– should last multiple years.

7. Key Personnel
- AP Gov Teacher– This teacher will work with the bookkeeper to ensure orders are placed for approved items. Alongside the non-AP Gov teacher, this person will also frequently review data to ensure the most effective approaches are taken to ensure maximum student engagement and performance.
- Non-AP Gov Teacher– Alongside the AP Gov teacher, this person will frequently review data to ensure the most effective approaches are taken to ensure maximum student engagement and performance. This person will also ensure proper storage and security of items when not in use.

8. Budget and Budget Narrative/Justification

Waco Education Foundation
Grant Budget Form

Assigned Proposal #		22	
Project Title:			
		ming a more perfect union: Project based poli	
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					
5	lemonade mix		$ 22.80			$ 22.80
10	Party tray		$ 239.00			$ 239.00
5	Napkins		$ 16.55			$ 16.55
5	Sparkiling Water		$ 23.70			$ 23.70
4	Cups		$ 16.52			$ 16.52
						$ -
	total Consumable Supplies		$ 318.57		$ -	$ 318.57
	Technology					
2	PA system		$ 107.08			$ 107.08
4	Podcast kit		$ 320.00			$ 320.00
	total Technology		$ 427.08		$ -	$ 427.08
	Long-Term Supplies / Equipment (items that will last beyond the grant year)					
2	Podiums		$ 179.58			$ 179.58
6	Constitutional framers costume		$ 251.82			$ 251.82
2	George Washington costumes		$ 160.00			$ 160.00
6	Judge robes		$ 87.48			$ 87.48
1	Drink dispenser		$ 62.69			$ 62.69
						$ -
	total Long-Term Supplies		$ 741.57		$ -	$ 741.57
	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	
	$ 1,487.22	3.71805	$ -	$ 1,487.22	