



**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

Enhanced Programming for Advanced Students

Fine Arts

Literacy

Extended Education for Staff

Emphasis on Student Performance

STEM

Enrichment

Bridging Language Gaps, Proposal 18

Project Description:

The Bridging Languages initiative seeks to enhance communication between bilingual staff, emergent bilingual students, and their families by providing 20 pocket translators. These devices will empower staff to break down language barriers, ensuring students who speak Spanish or other languages can engage fully with their academic environment. This project will be pivotal in fostering stronger connections between the school and its bilingual families, providing equitable access to educational opportunities and creating a more inclusive school culture.

Rationale:

This project aligns with the Waco Education Foundation's focus areas of district initiatives and creative classroom projects by addressing the needs of emergent bilingual students and supporting staff in a creative way. The initiative complements the District and Campus Improvement Plans by enhancing bilingual education strategies and providing effective tools for staff to assist non-English-speaking students. There is a clear need as over 54% of the district can speak a language other than English. By providing pocket translators, the communication gap between school staff and families can be bridged, ultimately improving students' academic and social experiences. Although grants are not awarded based on need, it is crucial to understand the context: our student population is diverse, with the majority coming from bilingual households. This device is not just a tool but a resource to ensure all families feel seen and supported. Effective communication is essential for academic success and parent involvement, which is why this project is so vital for the school community.

Goals: Clearly explain what you intend to accomplish, including specific expectations.

- **Increase Communication:** Equip 20 staff members with pocket translators to bridge language gaps between staff, emergent bilingual students, and their families.
- **Enhance Parental Involvement:** Use the translators in parent-teacher conferences and school events to increase engagement and understanding.
- **Empower Bilingual Students:** Provide tools that enable bilingual students to fully engage in the classroom and better communicate with their teachers and peers.
- **Support Professional Development:** Train staff to effectively use the devices in the classroom and during meetings with families.

Plan of Operation:

The project will be implemented in several phases:

- **Phase 1 (June/July 2025):** Secure funding for the pocket translators and order devices.
- **Phase 2 (August 2025):** Organize professional development for staff on how to use the translators effectively, ensuring they are familiar with all functions of the devices.
- **Phase 3 (September 2025):** Distribute the pocket translators to staff, including teachers and key administrative personnel. The translators will be used in classrooms during lessons, as well as in parent-teacher conferences and school events.
- **Phase 4 (September 2025 – May 2026):** After initial implementation, staff will use the devices as needed, and regular feedback will be gathered from staff and parents. The project will be monitored and adjusted based on needs and feedback.

The plan will include active parental involvement through the use of these translators in parent-teacher conferences and school events. Community partners such as bilingual community leaders will be engaged in supporting the initiative, sharing feedback, and helping refine the program.

Communication & Dissemination:

To include the Waco Education Foundation in the success of this project, representatives will be invited to attend a professional development session to observe the use of the pocket translators. Photo documentation opportunities will be provided to highlight the positive impact of the devices on

Bridging Language Gaps, Proposal 18

parent-teacher interactions. At the conclusion of the project, results can be shared with the district via WISD-TV if it can be provided, staff meetings, and through a presentation at a district-wide event if available. The Foundation will also be invited to participate in the ongoing communication efforts. Invitations will be extended to observe events such as the distribution of devices and the subsequent feedback sessions. Additionally, the results can be presented at a school board meeting to demonstrate how the project has empowered bilingual students and enhanced community engagement.

Evaluation:

The success of this project will be evaluated through:

- **Feedback Surveys:** Both staff and parents will be surveyed to assess the effectiveness of the pocket translators in improving communication.
- **Device Usage Logs:** Staff will track the usage of the translators to ensure they are being used as intended in classrooms, during parent conferences, and at school events.
- **Parental Engagement:** An increase in parental participation in school activities, as measured by attendance at conferences and events, will be a key indicator of success.

This data will be used to adjust the project and provide feedback to stakeholders, refining future strategies for bilingual communication.

Long Term Implications:

After the 2025-2026 school year, the pocket translators will be integrated into the long-term bilingual education program. The project will continue to impact bilingual students by ensuring they receive equitable access to their education, irrespective of their language background, even if all staff members do not share that language background. The translators will remain available to staff for ongoing use, and additional funding will be sought to expand the initiative to more bilingual staff members. Additionally, the success of this project will provide a model for other schools within the district, contributing to a more inclusive and supportive environment for bilingual students across Waco ISD.

Key Personnel:

- **Program Coordinator:**
 - o **Responsibilities:** Oversees the purchase, distribution, and training of staff to ensure the smooth implementation of the project. Monitors progress and provides ongoing support to staff in using the pocket translators. Organizes professional development sessions and gathers feedback from staff and parents.
 - o **Qualifications:** Master's in Bilingual & ESL Education and currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Special Education. Extensive experience in bilingual education, project management, and staff training. Skilled in implementing educational initiatives, tracking outcomes, and providing professional development opportunities.
- **Bilingual Teachers and Staff:**
 - o **Responsibilities:** Use the pocket translators in classrooms, parent meetings, and school events. Provide feedback on the effectiveness of the devices and contribute to the ongoing success of the project.
 - o **Qualifications:** Certified bilingual educators with experience working with emergent bilingual students. Strong knowledge of bilingual education strategies and classroom management techniques. Experienced in collaborating with colleagues, parents, and community partners to enhance student success.
- **Community Partners:**
 - o **Responsibilities:** Assist in promoting the project, help engage parents, and provide input during feedback sessions. Support the school in creating stronger connections with the bilingual community.

Bridging Language Gaps, Proposal 18

- o **Qualifications:** Established bilingual community leaders with a deep understanding of the cultural and language needs of bilingual families. Experience in community outreach, engagement, and educational initiatives. Strong communication skills and a commitment to enhancing family involvement in education.

8. Budget and Budget Narrative/Justification:

20 Pockettalk S2 Plus Translators w/ 2-Year Built-In Data Plan (T2) - \$5,580.00

The primary purchase for this project is 20 Pockettalk S2 Plus Translators, which come with a 2-year built-in data plan. These devices are essential for improving communication between bilingual staff and emergent bilingual students and their families. With the built-in data plan, the translators will be fully functional without requiring additional technology infrastructure, making them a reliable and cost-effective tool for bridging language barriers in both classroom and parent-teacher interactions. The total cost for this line item reflects the need to ensure that all participating bilingual staff members have access to a translator. After the two-year data plan is used, WIFI can supplement!

20 Pockettalk Plus Protective Cases - \$300.00

Protective cases will be purchased to safeguard the Pockettalk S2 Plus Translators from potential damage. These cases are necessary to ensure the longevity and durability of the devices, allowing them to withstand daily use by staff in various school settings. The protective cases are an essential accessory to maintain the devices in optimal condition throughout the project's duration.

20 Pockettalk Plus Screen Protectors - \$300.00

Screen protectors will be purchased for the Pockettalk S2 Plus Translators to ensure the screens remain free from scratches and damage during use. These protectors are crucial for preserving the device's functionality, ensuring that staff can continue to use the translators effectively without visual impairments that could arise from damaged screens.

20 Pockettalk Lanyards - \$300.00

Lanyards will be provided with each device, enabling staff to keep their translators easily accessible and preventing them from being misplaced during daily activities. The lanyards make it more convenient for staff to carry the devices around the school, ensuring they are readily available during interactions with students and parents.

Total Technology Costs: \$6,480.00

This amount covers the full cost of the translators, their protective cases, screen protectors, and lanyards, all of which are necessary to implement the project effectively. These items are crucial for ensuring that the devices remain functional and accessible, contributing to the overall success of the project.

Waco Education Foundation

Grant Budget Form

Assigned Proposal #	18
Project Title:	Bridging Language Gaps
Number of Students Served by Grant:	390

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						
20	Pockettalk S2 Plus Translators w/ 2year built in data plan (T2)	Y	\$ 5,580.00	0	\$ -	\$ 5,580.00
20	Pocketalk Plus Protective Cases	Y	\$ 300.00	0	\$ -	
20	Pocketalk Plus Screen Protectors	Y	\$ 300.00	0	\$ -	
20	Pocketalk Lanyards	Y	\$ 300.00	0	\$ -	\$ 300.00
total Technology			\$ 6,480.00		\$ -	\$ 5,880.00
Long-Term Supplies / Equipment (items that will last beyond the grant year)						
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -

						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
total Long-Term Supplies			\$ -		\$ -	\$ -
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
		\$ 6,480.00		16.61538462	\$ -	\$ 6,480.00