



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

Assigned Grant Proposal #: 19

Project Title: WISE Readers Club

Grade Level(s): PK-5 # of Students DIRECTLY involved: 5,400

Subject Area(s): Literacy

Amount Requested: \$ \$7,942.95

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Literacy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enrichment |

Project # 19

WISE Readers Club

Imagine Waco elementary students gathering together not in competition, but in community celebrating the books they have read together! The WISE Readers Club seeks to unite students across all 14 campuses through their love of literature. All elementary students would have the opportunity to join the club by reading 16 of the 20 books on the 2025 Texas 2x2 award-winning list. Students who accomplish this feat will enjoy both immediate rewards and access to end-of-year celebrations.

1. Rationale

The past two years have seen an extraordinary investment in our district's libraries and librarians. The WISE Readers Club seeks to capitalize on this success by providing our libraries with newly published books that represent some of the best literature to encourage independent reading and incite the imagination.

Texas 2x2 books are selected by professional librarians chosen for early readers that are visually appealing, appropriate for both content and audience. Additionally the list is known for valuing inclusion through diverse outlooks, stories, genres, formats, genders, geographic environment, ages, and ethnicity. Using this common collection builds unity in library experiences across our school and gives our librarians the opportunity to collaborate with one another while providing our students with engaging literary experiences.

Best practices for school libraries call for schools to spend around \$11 per student on new books each year. Very few, if any of our campuses have budgeted between \$3,850 to \$8,800 for the new year's books. While this grant does not call for filling that gap, it does provide a strategic investment in our libraries that can unite and invigorate our readers.

2. Goals

- A. Encourage students to read quality books.
- B. Celebrate literacy and reward student achievement.
- C. Unify our libraries as catalysts for an active community of readers.

3. Plan of Operation

Purchase of Books: The grant recipient has already discussed potential discounts on the bulk purchase of books which could be utilized to ensure equitable access for schools with large populations (more than one book each for Bell's Hill, South Waco). Books would arrive at each campus already catalogued and ready for distribution.

Achieving Club Membership: Recognizing the diverse needs of readers, club membership is ultimately left to the discretion of each librarian. Students would need to read 16 of the 20 books on the district book club list. This discrepancy is necessary to account for personal choices and family preferences.

Student reading can include listening (or reading with ears), parent and/or teacher assisted reading. Accelerated Reader tests are not required, but can be recommended at campus discretion. The ultimate purpose of the WISE Readers Club is to foster a love of reading and give students an opportunity to belong to a wider community of readers. Exclusivity and overly arduous hurdles to club membership are antithetical to the mission.

Rewards:

Immediate: When a student brings a completed club bookmark signed by parents and teachers to the librarian, they are immediately rewarded with a book token to our book machines and a certificate. Librarians can post a physical list and or a virtual list to celebrate students who “make the club”.

Club members could be granted exclusive access to hang out and read in the library (subject to school library schedules). The opportunity to curl up or lounge in our beautiful new spaces is actually a very popular reward!

At the end of the year, librarians will coordinate a joint Saturday celebration of WISE Readers Club members at Baylor’s library with book giveaways, special guest readers and author talks. Individual campuses will host a special pizza party in the library to ensure transportation issues and family participation do not exclude readers.



4. Communication and Dissemination

The Education Foundation is welcome to attend school kick-off celebrations as librarians introduce the book club and the new book collections. Librarians would be willing to share plans for school participation and club celebrations at education foundation meetings, school board meetings or any gathering requested. Board members, foundation staff and community partners will be invited to the end-of-year celebrations to observe, participate and celebrate. The Education Foundation will be apprised of the number of participants, outstanding WISE readers club activities and the celebrations.

5. Evaluation

The WISE Readers Club will be subject to qualitative and quantitative evaluation. Librarians from each campus will report the number of participants and the number of times the books were circulated in their libraries. The grant recipient will also survey librarians, some teachers, students and parents to obtain experiential feedback. At the end of the school year, the grant recipient will examine this data while considering the permanent implementation of the reading club and potential conference presentations to share our experience with other Texas librarians. At the end of the year we will prioritize finding if the experience was enjoyable for our students and if our librarians deemed this a valuable aid in fostering the love of reading.

6. Long-term Implications

If the WISE Readers Club is deemed successful and our students like it, we would consider seeking community sponsorship to aid the continued purchase of the next year's 2x2 book list. Ideally, our fledgling library system will establish itself as an essential budget priority and regular library funding would be utilized to ensure our libraries contained updated, award-winning collections of books for Readers Club activities.

The magic of books is this: reading can transform lives and communities. Introducing our students to a collection of books, encouraging reading through recognition and prizes, these small steps could result in creating readers. Creating readers can change the world for all of us.

7. Key Personnel

This grant relies on the commitment of one librarian to purchase materials, create promotional materials including bookmarks, posters and fliers, and organize kick-off and culminating celebrations. She will recruit her fellow librarians to promote the club, create library lessons, provide immediate celebrations and rewards for readers and assist in creating end-of-year celebrations. The library team has already collaborated together to

shape this grant and the district can be assured that each librarian is willing to participate in making the WISE Readers Club a success.

8. Budget Narrative/Justification

Consumable Supplies

Book shipping: Follet agreed to wave shipping charges to send books directly to all 14 campuses

Little Caesars Pizza: this charge represents an estimate of 5 pizzas per 14 campuses. This portion of the grant could certainly be subject to fluctuating food costs and may be a great place to seek matching funding. However, its inclusion provides all schools with an equitable start to fund reward celebrations.

Scholastic Book Machine Books: again these serve as the immediate reward for joining the book club. Purchasing best selling books in packs like this provided each campus with about \$100 worth of paperback books as a basis for equitable rewards across the district.

Long Term Supplies/Equipment

14 Sets of 20 books that comprise the Texas 2x2 2025 collection!

This is the centerpiece of the grant. Each campus would receive 20 new library bound books representing some of the best the publishing industry has to offer. These can be treasured for years to come.

A Pinecone! by Helen Yoon

Adela's Mariachi Band by Denise Vega; illustrated by Erika Rodríguez Medina

AHOY! by Sophie Blackall

Bear's Lost Glasses by Leo Timmers

Duck Goes Meow by Juliette MacIver; illustrated by Carla Martell

Go and Get with Rex by David LaRochelle; illustrated by Mike Wohnoutka

I'm Sorry You Got Mad by Kyle Lukoff; illustrated by Julie Kwon

Into Goblin Market by Vikki VanSickle; illustrated by Jensine Eckwall

Lefty: A Story That Is Not All Right by Mo Willems; illustrated by Dan Santat

Look by Gabi Snyder; illustrated by Samantha Cotterill

Lucky Duck by Greg Pizzoli

Millie Fleur's Poison Garden by Christy Mandin

Outdoor Farm, Indoor Farm by Lindsay H. Metcalf; illustrated by Xin Li

Pickle Words: Crunchy, Punchy, Pickles, & Poetry by April Pulley Sayre;
illustrated by Jialei Sun

Spider in the Well by Jess Hannigan

The Man Who Didn't Like Animals by Deborah Underwood; illustrated by LeUyen Pham

The Spice Box by Meera Sriram; illustrated by Sandhya Prabhat

There Are No Ants in This Book by Rosemary Mosco; illustrated by Anna Pirolli

Towed by Toad by Jashar Awan

We Are Definitely Human by X. Fang

Contracted Services

Follet Library Services Processing. By paying for this, we can ensure that all of the books arrive ready to read across the district.

Personnel

Elementary librarians across the district have indicated that they are willing to promote, organize and run the book club, donating some time after hours and on the weekend to facilitate the club.

9. Other

Please know that the support of an Education Foundation Grant means so much more than the dollars provided. There are other organizations that grant funding, donations from individuals can be requested, but a WISD Education Foundation grant reflects the confidence and support of our own local community. The very opportunity to dream and create is absolutely essential to our district.

Waco Education Foundation

Grant Budget Form

Assigned Proposal #	19
Project Title:	WISE Readers Club
Number of Students Served by Grant:	5,400

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						
	book shipping	y		Follet donation	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
	Little Caesars Pizza for celebrations (5 pizzas x 14 campuses)	y	\$ 489.30			\$ 489.30
	Scholastic Book Machine books (7x packages of 40 Best Selling Books199.00)	y	\$ 1,393.00			\$ 1,393.00
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
total Consumable Supplies			\$ 1,882.30		\$ 200.00	\$ 2,082.30
Technology						
	n/a					\$ -
						\$ -
total Technology			\$ -		\$ -	\$ -
Long-Term Supplies / Equipment (items that will last beyond the grant year)						
300	books 14 sets of 20 2x2 books)	Y	\$ 5,464.05			\$ 5,464.05
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
total Long-Term Supplies			\$ 5,464.05		\$ -	\$ 5,464.05
Contracted Services						
	Follet Library Services processing	y	\$ 396.60			\$ 396.60
						\$ -
total Contracted Services			\$ 396.60		\$ -	\$ 396.60
Personnel						
	elementary librarians		N/A	time donated		\$ -
						\$ -
total Personnel			\$ -		\$ -	\$ -
Travel / Other						
	n/a					\$ -
						\$ -

						\$ -
						\$ -
total Other			\$ -		\$ -	\$ -
Totals		Total Requested from the WISD Foundation		Foundation Cost Per Student	Total from Other Sources	Total Cost of Project
		\$ 7,742.95		1.43387963	\$ 200.00	\$ 7,942.95